

*Hafa Adai!*

iPads and carts distributed to CNMI schools. **PAGE 2**  
3 physicians express concern vs CHCC abolition. **PAGE 3**

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

TUESDAY JANUARY 30, 2018

Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 20

[www.facebook.com/saipantribune](http://www.facebook.com/saipantribune)

75¢

## OAG: Over \$635.2K claim is 'sweetheart backroom deal'



### LEARNING HOW TO SKI

Sixteen Marianas High School students take part in a cultural exchange and ski program with its sister school, Seisa Gakuen High School, in Japan. Here, the students were given an opportunity to learn how to ski at the Mount Naeba Ski Resort.

**See story on Page 9**

The Office of the Attorney General is digging its heels over what it describes as a "sweetheart backroom deal" for two Rota physicians who are claiming \$635,187 in benefits from the Rota Health Center and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

The lawyer for RHC and CHCC, Civil Division chief Christopher M. Timmons, said that Drs. Francois Claassens and James Tostekas have asked the Superior Court to enforce the deal.

He said the "sweetheart backroom deal," if made at all, is in contravention of Common-

**See OAG on Page 4**

## 'Work with DOL on CW concerns'

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
[erwin\\_encinaires@saipantribune.com](mailto:erwin_encinaires@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

About 12 companies have approached the Department of Labor since November 2017 to raise concerns about the 3,000 slots that were cut from the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program, according to Labor Secretary Vicky I. Benavente.

Although she did not specify those concerns, Benavente still urges businesses to collaborate with CNMI Labor on how they are being affected by these changes.

She also urged business owner to continue to comply with DOL requirements, such as  
**See WORK on Page 4**

## Ex-CPUC members being considered

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
[erwin\\_encinaires@saipantribune.com](mailto:erwin_encinaires@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is considering reappointing former members of the Com-

monwealth Public Utilities Commission.

In a statement from the Torres administration, it said that the governor is initiating necessary documentations on his

appointees to the CPUC, the governing body that regulates the rates and services of public utilities such as electricity supply, water supply, and tele-

**See EX-CPUC on Page 4**

## Senators: Involve DOL in CW process

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
[erwin\\_encinaires@saipantribune.com](mailto:erwin_encinaires@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

CNMI senators want more local involvement in the CW process, with members of the

Senate Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs pushing for more involvement by the CNMI Department of Labor secretary.

In a meeting last Thursday

on Capitol Hill, the committee, led by Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), said, "We wish that there is a portion there that gives the [Labor] secre-

**See SENATORS on Page 4**

## INSIDE



### NATION

Trump intends to use his first State of the Union to cite economic progress.

**PAGE 14**



### ASIA

The Philippines' Mayon Volcano could still erupt destructively.

**PAGE 15**



### LIFE & STYLE

Bruno Mars owned the Grammys with his R&B-inspired album.

**PAGE 19**



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440

FAX: 235-3740

EMAIL: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com)

# Local

## iPads and carts distributed to CNMI schools



Education Commissioner Glen Muña, Public School System federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), associate commissioner Yvonne Pangelinan, and PSS Procurement and Supply officer Kimo Rosario interact with Dandan Middle School students following Friday's turnover of the free iPads and carts to the school.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Public School System, together with the Office of the CNMI Delegate, recently conducted its second distribution of iPads and carts to both public and private schools throughout the CNMI.

A total of 3,000 iPads and 100 carts have been allocated to CNMI schools under the federal consolidated grant program for this school year.

The school district received a three-year approval for the federal grant program, enabling PSS to provide one free iPad/laptop per student for all of the Commonwealth's public and private schools.

On Friday, Education Commissioner Glenn Muña, PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh, and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) presented Dandan Middle School principal Lynn Mendiola, her school's leadership team, and a group of students DMS' share of free iPads and carts.



Dandan Middle School students and school leaders, led by principal Lynn Mendiola, are joined by education officials led by Education Commissioner Glenn Muña and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) after the turnover of free iPads and carts on Friday morning.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ing quality classroom instruction, including investment classroom technology.

Private schools have received their iPads and carts yesterday.

Tinian and Rota will receive their share of iPads and carts this week.

PSS is home to over 10,000 student elementary, middle, and high school student students, and runs 20 campuses on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. (PSS)



The final week of January is proclaimed Catholic Schools Week. Throughout the week students will be conducting activities that revolve around this year's theme "Catholic Schools: Serve, learn, lead, succeed." Students will also show appreciation for the values instilled in them by the Catholic Church.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Jan. 28-Feb. 3 is Catholic Schools Week

The last week of January has been designated Catholic Schools Week.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres proclaimed Jan. 28 through Feb. 3 as Catholic Schools Week in a proclamation signing held Friday at the Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Throughout the week, Mount Carmel School will have activities that will revolve around the theme "Catholic Schools: Serve, learn, lead, succeed."

Last Sunday, Jan. 28, the

school opened the week with a Mass.

Yesterday, Jan. 29, starting at 8am, students created appreciation banners and community service projects at Mount Carmel School. Students wore P.E. clothes. Dismissal was at 3pm.

Today, Jan. 30, at 7:30am

students of all Catholic schools will be writing appreciation letters and cards for faculty and staff. At 9am there will be a faculty and staff appreciation program and awarding of 2018 teacher of the year at the

MCS cafeteria. Dismissal will be at 12pm.

On Wednesday, Jan. 21, there will be a Mass at 8am, a vocations presentation at 9am, an appreciation card-making and vocations talk at 10am, a Jeopardy-style Bible game at 12:30pm at the Maturana building and dismissal will be at 1:30pm.

On Thursday, Feb. 1, students will be creating praise notes, assembling care packages, and there will be a tribute door decoration contest.

Saturday, Feb. 3, there will be the awarding of the 2018 AlumKnight of the Year at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan. (Kimberly A. Bautista)

## CNMI joint resolution backs CW extension bill

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A member of the CNMI House of Representatives has introduced a resolution that supports the CW program extension bill introduced by U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

The resolution, introduced by Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) in Friday's House session, is intended to be a joint measure that Demapan hopes would also be adopted by the CNMI Senate,

Sablan introduced H.R. 4869 at the U.S. House on the same day that Murkowski introduced S. 2325 at the U.S. Senate.

Demapan's unnumbered resolution seeks to have the CNMI Legislature express its support of measures that would extend the expiration date of the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program, or CW program.

Both S. 2325 and H.R. 4869 propose a 10-year extension of the CW program, and bump up the CW annual

cap for fiscal year 2019 to 13,000 instead of the 4,999, as set by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services last Nov. 2017.

While the cap limit is increased, 500 slots are set to be cut from the program each year starting fiscal year 2020. The measure also proposes several changes in securing a CW permit, including the creation of a CW-3 permit for employees who have been working legally in the CNMI since fiscal year 2014, provided that the applicant exits the CNMI for 30 consecutive days during the six-month renewal period. CW-3 permits are allowed to stay in the CNMI for three years at a time.

The unnumbered resolution, which cited U.S. Government Accountability Office reports on the CNMI's progress with the CW program and the implications after it expires, said it is in full support of the CW extension as proposed by Murkowski.

The joint resolution is set to receive action during the House session on Jan. 31, 2018.

## 3 physicians express concern vs CHCC abolition

Two physicians who have been with the Commonwealth Health Center since it was a line department under the Office of the Governor are opposed to the idea of abolishing the agency that runs it, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and placing it once more under a resurrected Department of Public Health.

Another physician, who was hired only two years ago, also joined the two in opposing House Bill 20-149, saying the bill, as introduced by Janet Maratita (R-Saipan), is ineffective.

H.B. 20-149 seeks to abolish CHCC and its six-month-old board.

## Compassionate Friends of Saipan gives hope

By BEA CABRERA  
bea\_cabrera@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Now on its seventh year, the Compassionate Friends of Saipan continues to provide hope, comfort, and understanding to grieving families who have lost a loved one.

Jill Derickson, founder of the Compassionate Friends chapter on Saipan, said that they are an organization that supports grieving families that go through a difficult time.

"I'd like to think that we provide hope to people who are 10, 20 years down the road... It is truly horrible and difficult when you lose a family member," she said. "At Compassionate Friends, we say it's not always going to be this painful and this bad. We think of it as a wound that is healing. You are never going to get over it, you are always going to have a scar but you will be able to learn to live with it."

According to Derickson, Compassionate Friends of Saipan is a worldwide organization.

"Compassionate Friends of Saipan became the official chapter of the Compassionate Friends national about a year after we held our first candle-lighting in December.

## Man in alleged domestic violence

A man allegedly accused his wife of having an affair and slapped her at their home in western Garapan early Saturday morning.

The wife locked the door of their room and barricaded the door with shelves as the husband allegedly tried to open it.

Edwin Bryan Mendoza Jr., 35, was arrested for assault and battery, disturbing the peace, criminal mischief, and false arrest.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed yesterday a \$10,000 cash bail and set the preliminary hearing for Feb. 5 at 1:30pm.

Speaking last Thursday, the three physicians pointed out that CHC has shown improvements since being cited by the Centers for Medicare/Medicare Services.

"This hospital took a turn when [CHCC CEO Esther Muñoz] returned and convinced Medicare that this place was worth saving. She used her skill and all the help that Medicare provided to keep this institution afloat and make it even better and now they want it back. Didn't they learn anything?" one physician asked.

The three agreed to speak on the condition that they not be named.

"This institution needs

qualified people, not political hires. Nobody's health should be in the hands of the government," he added.

According to him, when CHC was a line department under the Office of the Governor, salaries were late, supplies were scarce, and suppliers were not paid on time. He said that nurses and medical staff "left out of frustration."

Another questioned "how well" H.B. 20-149 is, compared to the newly established CHCC governing board, which was completed in June 2017.

"The 19th CNMI Legislature passed a law a little over

a year ago to create a governing board. The responsibilities of this board are enormous. The board has just taken over...and now a month later the Legislature wants to do something different? If the last law wasn't considered well enough to last more than a month, who thinks that this one is well enough considered?" asked the doctor.

Citing Public Law 16-51, which created CHCC and abolished DPH, the physician pointed out that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who was then chairman of the Health, Education, and Welfare Committee at the time, supported the law's intent.

"The committee finds that the current status of the Commonwealth Health Center, as a Division of the Department of Public Health and as a line agency of the Executive Branch, naturally makes it difficult to operate the hospital in a more self-sufficient manner," the physician said, quoting the committee report on P.L. 16-51.

The third physician, who has been with CHC for only two and half years, said that his main duty is to his patients.

"...Any unnecessary, cumbersome challenges impeding my care of them are extremely worrisome to me. Reverting CHCC back to the Executive

Branch will add multiple layers of bureaucracy to an otherwise complex healthcare system that both my patients and I have to navigate. When there is delay in care, people can and will suffer. In some cases, irrevocably," said the physician.

"[CHC] is a place that I enjoy working at and am willing to continue to work at if I can feel that my ability to care of my patients will not be jeopardized. We already have a governing board and, through them, I believe that we can have the accountability that is necessary for a transparent and financially sound healthcare organization," he said. (Erwin Encinares)

# A healthy lifestyle in the palm of your hands.

The Samsung Health app interface on a Samsung Galaxy Note 5. The app shows a green gradient background with icons for walking, running, and heart rate. It displays '0/6000 steps' and a message 'It's time for a stroll'. A yellow banner at the bottom right of the screen says 'SAMSUNG GALAXY NOTE 5 FREE\*'. The phone is held in front of a person's legs in athletic wear. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

**IT&E**

store.ite.net ite\_cnmi ite.cnmi

\*Terms & conditions apply. Minimum 24-month agreement on \$50 plan or higher. See stores for details.

# JP Glow Run this Friday

TanHoldings will be hosting the 10th Annual JP Glow Run

this Friday, Feb. 2, in celebration of the life of John Pangelinan, *Saipan Tribune*'s former publisher.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Family grief support group to meet on Feb. 1

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding its monthly grief support meeting on Thursday, Feb. 1, from 6pm to 7:30pm, at the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai. For more information, e-mail [tcf-Saipan@gmail.com](mailto:tcf-Saipan@gmail.com) or call Jill Derickson (989-9821) or Donna Krum (783-1900). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org). (PR)

### Road closure on Beach Road

There will be construction and

road closures on the northbound lane of Beach Road in between Llat Street and Alas Street in Garapan until March 25, 2018. The road is expected to re-open on March 25, 2018. This will allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s contractor, RNV Construction, to perform renovations on a sewer lift station, S-10. Due to the closure of the northbound

lane and for the safety of the community, motorists and large vehicles are advised to proceed with caution and take alternative routes when traveling through the area. (PR)

### Military training at FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the island of Farallon

### NAVFAC Marianas awards \$19.9M contract to Reliable Builders Inc.

PITI, Guam—Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas awarded a \$19.9 million firm-fixed-price contract, Jan. 24, to Reliable Builders Inc., a Guam-based small business, for construc-

tion of a hardened installation control center at Andersen Air Force Base to support the Air Power Resiliency initiative.

"The Navy is pleased to partner with one of our locally-based small businesses for

Early registration is \$10 and will be raised to \$15 on the day of the event. The registration fee includes a free T-shirt (while supplies last) and a raffle ticket for the chance

to win a roundtrip ticket to Hong Kong. This will be the 10th year that TanHoldings has been hosting this event

The run does not only celebrate the life of Pangelinan, who lost the battle against cancer, but also raises cancer awareness and funds that would go to the 2018 Marianas March Against Cancer on behalf of TanHoldings.

According to a previous article, the JP Glow Run used to be exclusive only for *Saipan Tribune* staff, TanHoldings employees, and Pangelinan's family. However, organizers have expanded it to the community, not only to honor Pan-

gelinan but also to promote a healthier lifestyle.

The JP Glow Run is a 5-kilometer run where individuals can choose to compete for a finalist medal or just enjoy the walk with their loved ones.

The JP Glow Run will start at 6pm. Pick up registration forms at the JP Center Bldg. along Beach Road in Garapan or register at the site starting at 5pm.

Pangelinan was born on Oct. 26, 1937, and died on Feb. 5, 2008.

For more information about this event, visit the second floor of the JP Center Bldg. in Garapan. (Kimberly A. Bautista)

## EX-CPUC

From Page 1

communications in the CNMI.

"...[The appointee selection] includes reigniting the process of reaching out to the former commissioners. As with every board and commission, [Torres] is making sure that potential candidates are willing to serve in the best interest of the ratepayers of [the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.] and are able to provide professional expertise on a number of issues that

have a direct impact on utilities, telecommunications, and infrastructure in the Commonwealth," the statement adds.

Last Aug. 17, 2017, Torres withdrew his appointment of James Benavente, after the latter informed the governor that he is setting his sights on pursuing a civil engineering license.

Benavente was nominated in June 21, 2017.

Former CPUC commissioners include former chair Joseph Guerrero, Oscar Quittuaga, and James Guerrero.

The CPUC has been inactive since November 2016.

## SENATORS

From Page 1

tary more involvement in the clearing and certification of specific positions in the CW program," said Hofschneider.

Thursday's meeting was prompted by the introduction of the CW program extension bill, called the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act, by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) and U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski's (R-AK) last Jan. 19.

According to Sablan's H.R. 4869, the bill provides that employers must first secure a certification that an employer could not find qualified and willing U.S.-eligible workers. Several CNMI senators believe this is where the CNMI Labor secretary may step in.

"We have a DOL here and they should be the one to vet the applications for the permit in terms of availability of jobs to prevent [ghost employees]," said Sen. Justo Quittuaga (Ind-Saipan), referring to individuals who apply for CW-1 permits but are either employed different from the one stated in their CW-1 permits.

Even though Sablan's legislation does not include such language, Hofschneider believes that the legislation is "monumental" as it provides guidance for the CNMI government.

"This is all about the survivability of our economy—call it [an] immigration [bill], call it whatever else you want, to me is very troubling."

but this is legislation to stabilize our economy and make it sustainable moving forward. In the meantime, we have a responsibility here to ensure that U.S. workers are also accorded an opportunity and that each business would follow that mandate and the intent of the law that is before us," said Hofschneider.

Sen. Francisco Cruz (R-Tinian) raised concerns regarding the lessening number of workers, as outlined in the bill. According to him, since the bill provides that there would be a reduction of CW 500 slots per fiscal year, he questioned whether it would be proper to keep inviting investors during the transition period.

"...It does not make sense for Tinian and Rota to have economic developments because we know for a fact that the CW slots would be all [consumed] by businesses on Saipan," he said.

"There should be discussions on how to mitigate this issue to give Tinian and Rota a chance for economic development," added Cruz.

Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) believes that "the fact that we have this variable in... [our] economic growth that is limited by foreign workers, to me is very troubling."

He added that although he wishes that the CW extension passes, the CNMI government should continue to allow for strategic planning and work on anticipating growth for the future.

## OAG

From Page 1

wealth law and was made by "self-dealing medical professionals who lacked the legal authority to make any such deal in the first place."

Timmons made the assertion in RHC's and CHCC's reply to Claassens' and Toskas' opposition to the motion to dismiss their lawsuit.

The two doctors are suing RHC and CHCC for breach of contract and *quantum meruit*.

*Quantum meruit* determines the amount to be paid for services when no contract exists or when there is doubt as to the amount due for the work performed, but done under circumstances when payment could be expected.

Claassens is demanding payment of \$308,000 for all administrative leave, while Toskas is seeking payment of \$327,187 for all administrative leave.

RHC and CHCC have filed a motion to dismiss the case.

The doctors, through counsel Stephen Nutting, opposed the motion.

Nutting said the court should find the contracts legal and enforceable because the director of Office of Personnel Management approved the terms at the time of their initial employment and subsequently approved the terms during the renewal process.

Nutting said the court should find that even if the RHC resident directors and Rota mayor did not have the authority to bind the government in their agreements with the doctors, agents with authority later ratified the doctors' contracts, including the terms in dispute, during the renewal process when they were fully ratified.

"The doctors' additional services to Rota greatly benefitted its people, the CNMI government, and the local community as a whole," said Nutting, adding that to refuse to compensate Claassens and Toskas would be "a malfeasance" by the OAG.

for fiscal year 2018.

"In December 2017, the Department of Labor began a survey of all CNMI businesses with regard to the number of employees (both U.S. and non-U.S. citizens), the number of CW permits approved, denied, and pending," said Benavente.

"...We asked the businesses to provide a projection of revenue loss, if any, and what their plans are to mitigate or cope with the reduction of CWs in the workforce," she added.

Several businesses have reportedly stated that expansion plans have been put on hold; businesses have reduced business hours; and are considering employee reductions.

The possible lay-offs would

include U.S. and CNMI residents, Benavente said.

As of publication, DOL has yet to complete the compilation of data and would issue a statement following the results of the survey.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) and U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) simultaneously introduced H.R. 4869 and S. 2325 last Jan. 19, 2018.

In S. 2325 and in H.R. 4869, a 10-year extension is being proposed while bumping up the CW annual cap for fiscal year 2019 to 13,000 instead of the 4,999 as set by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services last November 2017.

While the cap limit is in-

creased, 500 slots will be reduced annually starting fiscal year 2020. The measure also proposes several changes in securing a CW permit, including the creation of a CW-3 permit for employees who have been working since fiscal year 2014, provided that the applicant exits the CNMI for 30 consecutive days during the renewal period. CW-3 permit holders are allowed to stay in the CNMI for three years at a time.

In a House session last Friday, Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) introduced a joint resolution in support of S. 2325. The House would take action on the resolution in tomorrow's session, for transmittal to the Senate.



**AK** **SIGNATURE**  
USED CARS

Call me  
**Kevin Barnes**  
@234-5911



BROWSE OUR  
INVENTORY AT  
**AKSAIPAN.COM\***



2010 Nissan Altima 2.5 S  
4-door sedan, 4-cyl, Auto, FWD,  
Beige, STK#U18-001T  
**NOW \$8,599\***

## LIKE BRAND NEW QUALITY USED CARS BEST PRICES ON ISLAND



2014 Hyundai Tucson GLS  
2WD, 4-cyl, Auto, Gray, STK#U17-138T  
**WAS \$14,499\***  
**NOW \$13,899\***



2015 Prius C, Hatchback  
Mileage 25,856, 4-cyl, Auto, Blue, STK#U17-090L  
**WAS \$15,999\***  
**NOW \$14,899\***



2007 FJ Cruiser  
SUV, V-6, Manual, 6-spd, 4WD, Red, STK#U17-133T  
**WAS \$17,599\***  
**NOW \$16,599\***



2016 Prius C  
4-cyl, Auto, White, STK#U17-136L  
**WAS \$16,599\***  
**NOW \$16,999\***



2017 Yaris L Hatchback  
4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Red/Black, STK#R17-028F  
**NOW \$16,999\***  
**NOW \$16,999\***



2017 Yaris Hatchback  
4-Door, 4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Gray, STK#R17-026F  
**NOW \$17,399\***  
**NOW \$17,399\***



2016 Corolla LE  
4-dr, 4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Green, STK#U17-114R  
**WAS \$19,899\***  
**NOW \$17,999\***



2016 Corolla LE Sedan  
4-cyl, Auto, FWD, White, STK#U17-119R  
**WAS \$19,999\***  
**NOW \$18,299\***



2012 Sienna LE  
Mileage 35,318, 4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Red, STK#U17-092T  
**WAS \$22,799\***  
**NOW \$18,999\***



2015 RAV4 LE  
4-cyl, Auto, AWD, White, STK#U18-003T  
**WAS \$19,599\***  
**NOW \$19,599\***



2015 Prius HV, 4-Dr Hatchback  
4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Silver, STK#U17-102R  
**WAS \$21,999\***  
**NOW \$20,399\***



2017 Corolla LE  
4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Red, Fully loaded with Alarm,  
Pro-Coat, & Backup Sensor, #R18-002F  
**WAS \$20,899\***  
**NOW \$20,899\***



2011 Tacoma DC 4X4  
Mileage 53,212, V6, Auto, Green, STK#U17-091T  
**WAS \$25,699\***  
**NOW \$23,999\***



2016 Tacoma Access Cab Pre-Runner  
SR, 4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, White, STK#U17-129L  
**WAS \$26,199\***  
**NOW \$24,199\***



2016 Tacoma Access Cab Pre-Runner  
SR, 4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, White, STK#U17-130L  
**WAS \$25,999\***  
**NOW \$24,999\***



2014 Tacoma 2WD, DC  
4-cyl, Auto, Gray, STK#U17-139T  
**WAS \$26,899\***  
**NOW \$26,899\***



2015 Tacoma Double Cab  
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, Black, STK#U17-132T  
**WAS \$26,999\***  
**NOW \$26,999\***



2017 Tacoma 2WD, DC, SR5  
4-cyl, Auto, Gray, STK#R17-029F  
**WAS \$27,599\***  
**NOW \$27,599\***



2013 4Runner SR5  
4WD, V-6, Auto, Red, STK#U17-134T  
**WAS \$27,699\***  
**NOW \$27,699\***



2014 Tacoma DC  
4x4, V6, Auto, Red, STK#U17-111T  
**WAS \$30,599\***  
**NOW \$27,999\***



2014 Tacoma Double Cab  
4WD, V6, White, STK#U17-128L  
**WAS \$31,399\***  
**NOW \$28,699\***



2016 Highlander LE SUV  
4-Cyl, Auto, 2WD, Silver, STK#U17-109R  
**WAS \$30,229\***  
**NOW \$28,699\***



2016 Highlander LE SUV  
4-Cyl, Auto, 2WD, Silver, STK#U17-108R  
**WAS \$30,599\***  
**NOW \$28,999\***



2015 Highlander LE Sport  
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, Pearl White, STK#U17-135P  
**WAS \$29,399\***  
**NOW \$29,399\***



2015 Toyota Sienna LE  
Mileage 12,665, 8-pax Van, Red, 6-Cyl, STK#U17-050R  
**WAS \$34,499\***  
**NOW \$29,299\***



2016 Highlander LE SUV  
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, Blue, STK#U17-116R  
**WAS \$30,599\***  
**NOW \$29,599\***



2016 Highlander LE Sport  
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, Gray, STK#R17-025F  
**WAS \$30,799\***  
**NOW \$29,799\***



2016 Highlander LE SUV  
4-cyl, Auto, 6-spd, 2WD, Black, STK#U17-125R  
**WAS \$30,999\***  
**NOW \$30,999\***



2015 Tacoma DC  
V6, Auto, 4WD, Blue, STK#U17-097T  
**WAS \$33,399\***  
**NOW \$31,899\***



2012 4Runner Trail Edition  
Mileage 30,438, V6, Auto, 4WD, Gray, STK#U17-096P  
**WAS \$34,699\***  
**NOW \$32,599\***

\*On approved credit. Conditions apply. See dealer for details. Fees not included. Mileage may vary.

**LARGEST Used Car Inventory on island! CHECK OUT OUR NEW LISTING  
OF USED CARS AT [www.AKsaipan.com](http://www.AKsaipan.com). VISIT US TODAY!**



Atkins Kroll (Saipan), Inc.  
#1 Chalan Msr Guerrero San Jose  
Saipan, MP 96950

**Call 234-5911**

Showroom Hours: Monday to Friday 8 am to 5 pm  
Saturday Hours 8 am to 5 pm



# Job Fair



Triple J Enterprises employees conduct interviews at the 2018 Cooperative Education Job Fair at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall last Thursday.

PHOTOS By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Saipan World Resort representatives do interviews at the 2018 Cooperative Education Job Fair at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall last Thursday.



The Ajisen Restaurant conducts interviews during the 2018 Cooperative Education Job Fair at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall last Thursday.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Fifteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, January 31, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. at the Board of Education Conference Room, Building 1241, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

### AGENDA<sup>1</sup>

#### I. Preliminary

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of the Minutes
  - a. December 21, 2017 Regular Board Meeting
  - b. January 10, 2018 Regular Board Meeting

#### II. Public Comments<sup>2</sup>

#### III. Reports

1. Chair
2. Board Committees
  - a. FPA
3. Commissioner of Education
  - a. Financial Status Reports
    - i. Federal
    - ii. Local
  - b. Head Start Program
  - c. Others
    - i. PSS Events for February

#### IV. Unfinished Business

1. Proposed FY 2018-2019 BOE-PSS Budget

#### V. New Business

1. Ratifications:
  - a. BOE-PSS Comments to House Bill No. 20-130
  - b. BOE-PSS letter to Chair, Ways and Means Committee
2. Consolidated Grants Amendment to include Health Assessment of the Network Infrastructure
3. Proclamation: School Counselors Week
4. Proclamation: Pupil Transportation Week
5. Updates:
  - a. E-Rates Bidding
  - b. Child & Nutrition Program
  - c. FY2017 Audit
  - d. Data Management Plan
  - e. PSS Website
  - f. Proposed School Year 2018-2019 School Breakfast and Lunch Menu
  - g. Proposed School Year 2018-2019 Calendars
    - i. All Elementary & Secondary (K-12) Schools
    - ii. Head Start/Early Head Start Program
    - iii. Early Intervention Program
  - h. Proposed Fiscal Year 2018-2019 JROTC Budget
  - i. Graduation and Promotion Dates
6. Certification and Licensure Matters
  - a. CLO Report 2018-002
  - b. Proposed Amendments to Certification Regulation
  - c. Fingerprinting Requirement
  - d. Annual Mandatory Drug Testing

#### VI. Executive Session<sup>3</sup>

1. Legal Updates
2. Personnel/Certification
3. Other matters

#### VII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

#### VIII. Adjournment

<sup>1</sup> In the event that the items on the agenda are not completed, the meeting will recess and reconvene on the following day or at the most expeditious date and time determined by the Board.

<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.



PHI Pharmacy interviews potential applicants at the 2018 Cooperative Education Job Fair at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall last Thursday.



The Kanoa Resort booth at the 2018 Cooperative Education Job Fair at the Royal Taga Hall last Thursday.



The TanHoldings booth at the 2018 Cooperative Education Job Fair at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall last Thursday.



Hard Rock Café interviews potential applicants at the 2018 Cooperative Education Job Fair at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall last Thursday.



The Saipan Chamber of Commerce table at the Royal Taga Hall last Thursday.



The Law Offices of Robert Torres conducts interviews during the 2018 Cooperative Education Job Fair at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall last Thursday.



The Office of Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan conducts interviews during the 2018 Cooperative Education Job Fair at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall last Thursday.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID  
ITB NO.: ITB 18-DCCA/HPO-052**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 02, 2018 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) NEW DIGITAL COLOR COPIER MACHINE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTORY OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER  
SECRETARY, DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLON  
DIRECTOR, P&S



## Judge inspects CUC projects, facilities

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David Carter will inspect again today, Tuesday, several Commonwealth Utilities Corp. projects and facilities.

Carter announced his plan after a status conference yesterday with the U.S. government, CUC, and Gilbane Federal about the progress of some CUC projects.

Gilbane Federal is the court-appointed company that is overseeing some CUC projects.

Francisca Nebida Gaolong  
P.O. Box 505651 C.K.  
670-286-0605 / 783-5778

Pro se

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Francisca Nebida Gaolong ) FCD-DI-CIVIL  
Petitioner ) ACTION  
vs. ) NO. 18-0016  
Feng Gaolong ) SUMMONS  
Respondent )

**YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED** and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Francisca N. Gaolong whose mailing address is P.O. Box 505651 CK Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filling your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing. Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at P.O. Box 500307 Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 18th day of January, 2018.  
/s/  
Clerk of Court



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL MVA-RFP-18-2009

#### For: Local Publication and Media Services

Submission /Closing Date:  
Time:

February 23, 2018  
3:00 p.m.

Submit sealed proposals to:  
Marianas Visitors Authority  
Procurement Office  
San Jose Professional Building  
Beach Rd., San Jose  
P.O. Box 500861  
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **January 16, 2018**, at the **Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan**, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified courier services by February 23, 2018, and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the Commonwealth must notify the MVA/ Mr. David B. Muna in writing of their intent to submit a proposal in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. Participants outside the **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands** must submit a Notice of Intent by any mode of written communication including facsimile at +1-670-664-3237 or email to dmuna@mymarianas.com, and must be received by 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on **February 23, 2018**.

All questions regarding this RFP must be sent to Mr. David B. Muna at dmuna@mymarianas.com or faxed to +1-670-664-3237, **no later than 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on February 09, 2018**.

/s/ Gloria C. Cavanagh  
Chairperson, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion  
Managing Director

## NMHC helps over 400 families needing housing assistance

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Over 400 families or individuals across the CNMI are currently availing of Northern Marianas Housing Corp.'s voucher program, which allows them to have a roof over their heads.

Of its two voucher programs, the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program can be availed of by those who are at the poverty threshold, based on the United States poverty chart.

It also allows a family or individual to seek out private landlords and pay only 20 percent of their rent every month. The voucher will only be legitimate if the landlord is registered with the housing agency.

The Multi-Family Voucher Program, on the other hand, houses families or individuals in homes that are owned by the housing agency. The family or individual will live in these homes rent-free, provided they follow all the rules and regulations of the agency.

According to data acquired from the agency, as of Janu-

ary 2018, there are currently 296 individuals or families under the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program and 114 families or individuals under the Multi-Family Voucher Program.

For the Multi-Family Voucher Program, there are currently 48 families or individuals residing in Mihaville in Garapan, 33 families or individuals at the Koblerville Estate, 19 families on Timian, and 14 families on Rota.

Both voucher programs are allotted an average of \$1.3 million each year, based on the occupancy rate.

Besides assisting families with their housing needs, NMHC is also in charge of the distribution of the Emergency Solutions Grant, which it implements with the Karidat Social Services. Together they were able to provide housing assistance to 45 individuals in fiscal year 2017.

The agency has also provided a total of 300 household assistance since 2007 under their House Program. This program provides loans to build, purchase, or rehabilitate a home.



**Legislative Bureau**  
NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE  
P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950

## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Examination Announcement Number: LB-JVA-18-002  
PL-UNGRADED: \$1,148.36 B/W

The salary will be determined by the qualification of the appointee

Position: Legislative Assistant  
Opening Date: January 10, 2018  
Closing Date: January 31, 2018

Location: Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan

#### General Duties:

- Drafts legislative documents including but not limited to resolutions, committee reports, and letters, as requested by the Chairperson of the Committee to which he or she is assigned to;
- Attends legislative session and committee meetings as requested by the Chairperson of his or her assigned committee;
- Performs investigative and legislative research and analysis;
- Prepares reports and studies including preparation of letters, legislation, and related documents as requested by members of his or her assigned respective legislative house;
- Maintains a reasonable record of all tasks assigned by his or her immediate supervisor Chairperson of the Committee or other members of his or her assigned respective legislative house and such record is subject to review upon request; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

#### Qualifications and Requirements:

- Possess four years relevant work experience or a minimum of an AA or AS degree or higher from a United States accredited institution of higher education with one year of legislative work experience;
- Possess ample knowledge of the legislative process;
- Excellent research, analytical, and strong writing skills;
- Ability to produce results within limited time frames and work under pressure on a daily basis; and
- Undergo a pre-employment drug test.

Education requirements may be substituted with related experience

Education and training claimed under item 19(A) through 19(F) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by a copy of an official diploma and/or certificate and a police clearance must be attached to the application. **Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.**

Employment application may be accessed at [www.cnmileg.gov.mp](http://www.cnmileg.gov.mp) or may be picked up at the Office of the Director of the Legislative Bureau located at the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan. Completed application and police clearance may be submitted to the Office of the Director or may be mailed to the Office of the Director; Legislative Bureau; P.O. Box 500586; Saipan, MP 96950. No telephone inquiries.

# Anti-snake program exceeds inspection goals in FY '17

The Brown Tree Snake Interdiction Program has exceeded its inspection performance for fiscal year 2017 on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, according to Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Anthony Benavente.

"The CNMI Brown Tree Snake Interdiction team did amazing work in the past year and prevented the entry of [brown tree snakes] to the islands.

"I commend our program coordinator and K9 [canine] inspectors for their ongoing diligence to ensure that all vessels and cargo arriving at ports of entry on Saipan, Tinian, or Rota are clear and snake-free.

"Our program performance standards for inspections are to maintain a 90-percent canine inspection rate of Guam-based cargo arrivals, and maintain approximately 450 snake traps at all CNMI ports of entry and I am very pleased that the team has exceeded this and no brown tree snake have entered the CNMI," Benavente said.

The program is made up of nine staffers, with one brown

tree snake canine trainer, four canine handlers on Saipan, one on Tinian, and two on Rota. The program received no credible snake sightings within the fiscal year. Although calls on the snake hotline were received—three calls on Saipan and one on Rota—they were confirmed as brahminy blind snakes (*Intyphlops braminus*), which are a non-injurious snake species known to be common in the CNMI.

Program coordinator Kevin Donmoyer said that Saipan exceeded the 90-percent inspection performance goal each month.

At the same time 2,307 out of 2,423 commercial flights were successfully inspected. Of those inspections, 84.5 percent used a canine team and 12.3 percent were visually inspected.

"In addition to the commercial flights, the CNMI also received military aircraft. During the reporting period, the program inspected 38 military aircraft on



A dog named Paulie inspects incoming cargo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan, which used the international airport to refuel, unload/on-load personnel, or offload cargo prior to heading to the Northern Islands.

"During a May exercise, some helicopters preferentially came to Saipan prior to Tinian, so they may receive a [brown tree snake] inspection. Saipan also received three military vessels, which unloaded vehicles and supplies for an exercise, and on Tinian, many aircraft landed as part of the COPE North and ARC-17 training exercises.

"Although all reported military flights were inspected,

the program became aware of frequent Guam National Guard flights, which were not contacting Saipan operations prior to arrival. Once this hole in communication was identified in May, the commanding officers in Guam were notified and Saipan personnel are a part of the National Guard's phone tree, ensuring we are alerted to their future arrivals," Donmoyer said.

In terms of cargo entering the CNMI's seaports, Donmoyer noted that the majority of the seaport activity occurs on Saipan, with a minimal amount on Rota and Tinian.

On Saipan, 94 cargo inspections were reported and on Rota there has been an increase in private vessels transporting cargo from Guam. On average, brown tree snake staff on Rota expect four private vessel arrivals per week at the small-boat harbor on Rota, with three vessels with cargo on Tinian during the reporting period.

"We are happy to report that there have been no cred-

ible [brown tree snake] sightings reported. Our program has shown continued improvement over the year, but there is still more growth ahead. We look forward to improving our data collection of all islands and strengthen contact with all incoming vessels and we hope for even better outcomes as time progresses," Donmoyer said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres emphasized that the program plays a key part in safeguarding the CNMI's ecosystem and community.

"Invasive species significantly damage our local habitat and can have significant effects and disruption to the economy. Preventing the spread of [brown tree snakes] is a continual effort, and I recognize and commend the efforts of our [brown tree snake]

team who've maintained and exceeded their program's inspection performance. Again, we've been so fortunate to say that our Commonwealth is snake-free and that our bird population is thriving. DLNR's perseverance has helped preserve our current bird habitat and ecosystem. As we continue work in containing and eradicating invasive species such as the coconut rhinoceros beetles on Rota, I maintain our commitment to providing the necessary resources to combat all invasive species as much as possible," Torres said.

The last snake to be trapped outside of Guam was on the island of Rota in August 2014. The last brown tree snake found on an aircraft in the CNMI occurred in 2000 on the island of Saipan. (PR)

## Honoring African American Marines

In honor of African American History Month in February, the American Memorial Park will welcome crew members of the USNS *Montford Point* to share the important story of their ship's namesake.

During World War II, Montford Point Camp, North Carolina, was the training site for African American Marines who served in segregated units.

According to Capt. Kurt Kleinschmidt, Montford Point Camp trained "some of the first black Marines to see combat during the Second World War and the first to be killed in action during that conflict. The USNS *Montford Point* is named in honor of those 20,000 who served their country with honor and distinction and at the same time helped bring about social change in the Marine Corps."

Several of these Marines

fought on Saipan's shores in 1944 and the names of three who were killed in action rest on the walls of American Memorial Park's Court of Honor.

On Feb. 8, at 6pm the community is invited to the American Memorial Park Visitor Center Theater to learn about the Montford Point Marines. Presenters will share a film presentation that highlights the story of the Montford Point Training site and its role during World War II.

After the film, the crew will talk about their vessel, the USNS *Montford Point* that often sits outside Saipan's lagoon.

The evening will wrap up with opportunities for questions.

For more information on the park and its programs, contact lead ranger Brooke Nevitt at 234-7207 or 2020 or via email at [brooke\\_nevitt@nps.gov](mailto:brooke_nevitt@nps.gov). (NPS)

## Man allegedly used checks from a shuttered company

A man was arrested in Garapan on Saturday for allegedly buying items at several establishments using checks from a company that has been closed since 2013.

Nelsin A. Saimon, 30, was served with an arrest warrant on charges of theft and possession of a forged device.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo imposed a \$7,500 cash bail and set the preliminary hearing for Feb. 5 at 1:30pm.

According to police, an officer responded to a reported misuse of bad checks at LC Market in Gualo Rai last Dec. 26.

Investigation revealed that a man, later identified as Saimon, allegedly purchased \$156 worth of items from the

store using a check with an amount of \$578 belonging to Kae Poong (Saipan) Corp. last Dec. 22.

Saimon allegedly told the store employee that he works for Kae Poong Corp. He was given a change of \$422.

A couple of days later, LC Market called the telephone number listed on the check and was informed that Kae Poong Corp. had been out of business since 2013.

Last Dec. 26, police reviewed the surveillance camera at LC Market and identified Saimon to be the person who cashed the check.

Jobab said several establishments also reported that Saimon also used Kae Poong Corp. checks to buy items. (Ferdie de la Torre)



The Brown Tree Snake Program is made up of nine staffers, with one canine trainer, four Saipan-based dog handlers, one on Tinian, and two on Rota.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



### A VISIT TO THE DENTIST

Dental assistant Marissa Leon Guerrero of SDA Dental, Saipan International School teachers Kiana Sablan, Christie Boll, Pam Villadore-Wash, Paradise Dental owner Donna Krum, Dr. Nelson Krum and SIS teacher Doris Materne accompany the K5 and K3 students of Saipan International School on their field trip to the dental clinic yesterday. Villadore-Wash said the trip is part of the social studies class of the children. "We are teaching the kids the importance dental hygiene and they are learning about community helpers so they know the people in their neighborhood." Dr. Krum said it is important for the children to be comfortable being in a dental clinic. "A lot of the children here have never been to a dental clinic so we try to get them comfortable with their transition. We encourage parents to bring their children to visit the dentist regularly. For girls, the appropriate age to start is 2 years old and for boys 3 years old and we call those happy visits as we do what they let us do and we keep seeing them back every six months until that they are comfortable."

BEA CABRERA

# 'Navy, DOD's record omits analyses of training needs'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Navy and the U.S. Department of Defense omitted critical analyses of training needs when the Navy prepared the supplemental environmental impact statement for the Guam relocation of thousands of U.S. Marines, according to the four environmental and cultural preservation groups.

David L. Henkin of Earthjustice, which is representing the groups, said the U.S. District Court for the NMI should order either completion or supplementation of the record to allow effective judicial review.

The groups—Tinian Women Association, Guardians of Gani, Pagan Watch, and the Center for Biological Diversity—are suing the U.S. Navy, Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer, DOD, and DOD Secretary James Mattis for alleged violation of the National Environmental Policy Act and

Administrative Procedure Act. Earthjustice filed the lawsuit on behalf of the groups.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona had already granted the Navy and Defense's motion to dismiss the groups' second claim that the Navy and Defense violated NEPA by failing to consider alternative locations for sending Marines from Okinawa.

Manglona dismissed the groups' second claim with prejudice, which means they cannot re-file the claim.

The remaining claim before the court alleges that the Navy failed to evaluate in a single environmental impact statement two separate programs: the relocation of Marines from Okinawa to Guam and the proposed training programs for U.S. Pacific Forces on Tinian and Pagan.

The Navy and DOD are opposing the request of the groups to compel the Navy to add documents to the record, saying the groups failed to demonstrate that the Navy

considered those documents in connection with the Guam relocation decisions.

The documents refer to an assessment of current training ranges and supporting facilities in the U.S. Pacific Command Area of Responsibility dated April 2012 and revised March 2013, and the final CNMI joint military training requirements and siting study dated January 2013 and revised March 2013.

The other documents being sought are the March 14, 2013 *Federal Register* notice announcing the Navy's intent to prepare the CNMI joint military training environmental impact statement overseas environmental impact statement, and the draft CNMI joint military training environmental impact statement overseas environmental impact statement.

He said Navy and DOD do not deny the existence of related documents that informed the Navy's analysis of the highly destructive training that Guam-based Marines will need to conduct on Tinian and Pagan, none of which the Navy disclosed in its supplemental environmental impact statement.

Henkin said the court should squarely reject the Navy and

the Navy and DOD have now amended their certification to assert the record "contains all documents directly or indirectly considered by the Navy's decision makers," the Navy's continued insistence on excluding key Navy documents related to the training needs of Guam-based Marines proves the Navy continues to apply the wrong standard for compiling the administrative record.

Henkin said the groups' moving papers include excerpts from specific documents that the Navy prepared at the same time it drafted the supplemental environmental impact statement.

He said Navy and DOD do not deny the existence of related documents that informed the Navy's analysis of the highly destructive training that Guam-based Marines will need to conduct on Tinian and Pagan, none of which the Navy disclosed in its supplemental environmental impact statement.

On the contrary, Henkin said, from the highest levels of its leadership down, the

DOD's claim that, when the Navy signed off on the 2015 supplemental environmental impact statement and associated record of decision for the Guam relocation, it was unaware of the draft CNMI Joint Military Training the Navy itself had just issued and the relocated documents reflecting the Navy's own determinations that highly destructive training on Tinian and Pagan would be required if thousands of Marines relocate to Guam.

He said defendants' opposition is notable for its complete silence regarding the Navy's primary responsibility for both environmental reviews.

He said the record conclusively refutes the defendants' suggestion that, when the Navy was drafting the supplemental environmental impact statement, it was ignorant of the work on the CNMI Joint Military Training Environmental Impact Statement.

Navy coordinated preparation of both environmental impact statements with the same Navy unit—Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific—tasked with completing both documents, as well as preparing the training needs assessment and the siting study, which identified the specific training that Guam-based Marines would need to conduct on Tinian and Pagan.

On Nov. 9, 2017, the Navy lodged the administrative record in this case that contained over 14,000 documents.

Last Jan. 12, the Navy submitted additional documents inadvertently omitted from the filed record in a corrective administrative record.

In defendants' opposition, DOJ said plaintiffs must provide clear evidence that the Navy considered the documents in preparing its 2010 final environmental impact statement and 2015 supplemental environmental impact statement for the relocation of Marines to Guam.

Sixteen Marianas High School students completed a successful cultural exchange and ski program with its sister school, Seisa Gakuen High School, in Japan.

The participants in the one-week program, which lasted from Jan. 4 through Jan. 26, were Jeanelyn Rose Gomez, Helen Huang, Louise Li, Katrina Malate, Cerijean Mangubat, Kianny Ogo, Carmencita Pangelinan, Ninfa Lyn Rabago, Clarissa Valenzuela Kento Akimaru, John Costales, Kenny Diaz, Ruoxiang John Lu, Philip Punzalan, Ryan Relucio, and David Boyer Roberto.

## MHS students complete exchange program in Japan



Marianas High School students pose with Hajime Inoue.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Marianas High School students show off the bags they got from the Marianas Visitors Authority.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Marianas High School students visit Asukasa.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

change activities, students were also given an opportunity to learn how to ski at the Mount Naeba Ski Resort.

This year's program marks the 32nd anniversary of the partnership between MHS and Seisa Gakuen High School.

The "Participate and Learn" Program celebrates the diversity of cultures and build friendship among student from both schools.

Those that contributed to the success of the program included the MHS administration, Seisa Gakuen High School administration, Education Commissioner Glen Muña, Board of Education leaders and members, Marianas Visitors Authority, Barney's, Feng Ze Corp., and the parents of the participants. (PR)

# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 20

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
editor@saipantribune.com

**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## A world without flu? It's possible

**N**asty viruses that deliver gruesome death (Ebola) or cause horrific birth defects (Zika) understandably get the big headlines when they flare up. The outbreaks are followed by calls for action and furious scrambling to come up with a cure. And while that's reasonable, it contrasts sharply with the oddly ho-hum attitude humans seem to have developed toward a deadlier viral killer—influenza—that shows up every year to inflict widespread sickness and claim the lives of 290,000 to 650,000 humans, most of them old or infirm.

The 2017-2018 flu season is shaping up to be one of the deadliest in recent history. The illness hit hard and early, killing an unusually high number of young and healthy people (30 children had died in the U.S. by mid-January), causing a shortage of antiviral medicine and prompting some overwhelmed hospitals to take drastic action, such as treating sick people in parking lots. The dominant strain this go-around is unusually lethal, and the vaccine prepared for this season is particularly ineffective at preventing people from getting sick. These developments signal that it's time for the nation to focus its efforts on developing universal flu vaccines that provide long-term protection from all strains.

The current method of developing seasonal flu shots is little more than guesswork. Scientists do the best they can to predict the strain that will be circulating the following year. Even at their most effective, these short-term vaccines rarely protect half the population from infection. We can do better. It may sound like fantasy, but universal vaccines are well within the realm of possibility.

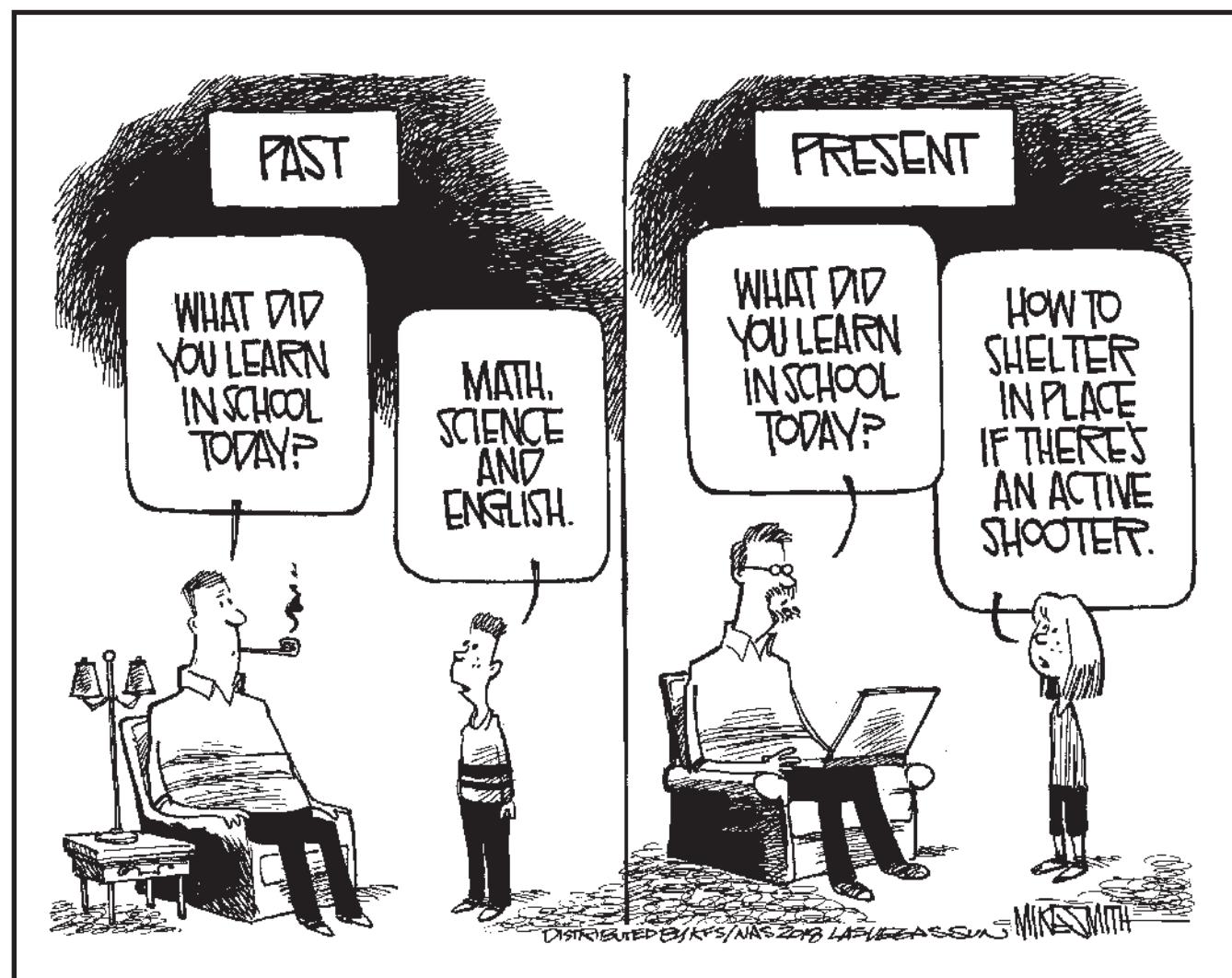
Last week, a UCBC-based team of researchers reported in the journal *Science* that they have found a novel way to protect mice and ferrets from some influenza strains, and the technique may well be applicable to other viruses and to humans. Influenza is able to make people ill because of its ability to hide from the immune system's initial defenses. The UCLA team found it could disable this ability so the virus could be killed off before it can do harm.

Granted, before a cure can be declared, the data must be replicated and human trials must be conducted successfully—a set of hurdles that won't be cleared for years, if ever. Still, the UCLA results are a tremendously promising step that has scientists and epidemiologists hopeful it could lead to a vaccine that offers full protection from deadly flu in the coming decades.

There's also hope for improved if not quite universal vaccines as soon as five years from now. That prospect is why the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases has made it a priority to push for better vaccines. Another motivating factor: the possibility of a devastating flu pandemic. It's been a century since the Spanish Flu wiped out as much as a third of the global population, and epidemiologists say humanity is due for another "Big One."

Because pandemics happen when influenza viruses make huge mutations, rather than small shifts, seasonal flu shots would offer little to no protection. Let's not wait until then to stop treating the flu like a familiar, if troublesome, annual houseguest. Finding a better way to fight this serial killer needs to be given at least as much urgency as attacking the next sexy virus that pops up in the news.

(c)2018 Los Angeles Times



## 'To ease your concerns...'

**I** write this to address my intentions in drafting House Bill 20-149 titled, "To abolish the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and return its functions to the Department of Public Health." It is my hope that this letter eases some of the concerns you may have regarding this crucial piece of legislation. In case my statements fail to do so, I encourage you to reach out to my office for any further inquiries for which I will be happy to address with you personally.

### What H.B. 20-149 seeks to accomplish

The findings section of H.B. 20-149 simply states that because CHCC has failed to meet the needs of the people of the Commonwealth, the corporation *should be abolished*, and its functions be returned to the Department of Public Health. This bill will repeal Public Law 19-78 and Public Law 16-51; thus, it will revive the laws that existed prior to their enactment. Further, the transition of the management of the commonwealth care facilities from CHCC to the Department of Public Health shall be coordinated by the Office of the Governor. Additionally, where separate appropriations currently exist for CHCC as a governmental corporation (as determined by Public Law 20-11), appropriations shall be made in accord with the Department of Public Health.

### Public Law 16-51

On Oct. 1, 2011, CNMI Public Law 16-51 was enacted to establish the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Prior to the creation of this law, public health care services (the Commonwealth Health Center) remained a governmental responsibility chiefly reliant on the CNMI's general fund for its day-to-day operational expenses. The original intent of P.L. 16-51 was to allow CHCC the opportunity to become a professionally managed, nationally credited, and financially self-sufficient public healthcare institution independent of the Commonwealth government.

Public Law 16-51, among other conditions, required CHCC to 1) establish an accounting system, 2) produce monthly financial statements, 3) establish required cash funds, 4) establish a fee structure, 5) develop a strategic plan, 6) prudently collect account receivables, and 7) develop annual budgets. As of today and over six years after the enactment of P.L. 16-51, CHCC has yet to achieve *any* of these requirements as reflected in audit reports directly from the Office of the Public Auditor for fiscal years 2012, '13, '14, and '15 (FY '16 and '17 are pending).

### CHCC presently

Despite P.L. 16-51 requiring of the autonomous agency to be

By **JANET U. MARATITA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Janet U. Maratita is a Precinct 1 representative in the House of Representatives of the 20th Legislature.*



come self-sufficient and its wide-ranging latitude to do so during the past six years, CHCC continues to place blame for its inability to provide quality healthcare services to CNMI citizens and residents on the CNMI government's underfunding of the corporation. Notwithstanding, my colleagues at the Legislature and I, in consideration of the essentialness of our lone public hospital, have continued to prioritize the needs of CHCC and have appropriated tens of millions of dollars from the general fund for hospital equipment, supplies, and other expenses, including uncompensated care costs for indigent members of our community. Regrettably, because CHCC remains an autonomous agency, we have little to no say in *how* this funding is to be spent. Moreover, we are unable to access any documentation—post-expense—regarding how the funding was *actually* spent.

Still, the Legislature has *eagerly* extended communication efforts to CHCC in hopes of addressing the many concerns expressed to us by our very own citizens, in particular those who have been consistently disappointed with the healthcare services provided to them and their loved ones by CHCC. These efforts in no way have been intended to hinder CHCC's growth as an autonomous agency, but rather to offer our assistance in attaining the needs of the hospital as we have seen very little progress within the corporation since P.L. 16-51's enactment. These efforts, however, have been unsuccessful as CHCC's management has persistently remained uncooperative in sharing information relating to the agency.

On one particular occasion following my review of CHCC's fiscal year 2014 audit report and in my capacity as chairwoman of the Health and Welfare Committee of the Saipan Northern Island Delegation, I had noticed that an excessive sum of funding in the amount of \$203,107,017 of Accounts Receivables was written off from CHCC's books. In light of this discovery, I drafted a letter to CHCC's CEO Esther Muñoz requesting that these funds be justified. Specifically, I requested for the follow-

See **CONCERN** on Next Page

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right

to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## January is Glaucoma Awareness Month

By THOMAS M. THORNBURGH  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

**A**ccording to WebMD, glaucoma, the increased pressure called intraocular pressure, can damage the optic nerve, which transmits images to your brain. If the damage continues, glaucoma can lead to permanent vision loss. Without treatment, glaucoma can cause total permanent blindness within a few years.

The overall national rate is 1.9 percent for the U.S. population age 40 and older, indicating that more than 2.7 million older Americans have primary open-angle glaucoma.

On Saipan, the Hardt Eye Clinic states that 61 percent of glaucoma and cataract patients occur in women. Studies show there is a gender gap in eye disease. Women are more likely than men to suffer from sight-threatening conditions such as age-related macular degeneration, cataracts, and glaucoma.

Here are a couple of things to keep in mind this January:

1. **Get a comprehensive medical eye exam** at age 40. Early signs of disease or changes in vision may begin at this age. An

exam by one of Marianas Eye Institute's specialists is an opportunity to carefully examine the eye for diseases and conditions that may have no symptoms in the early stages.

2. **Know your family history.** Certain eye diseases can be inherited. If you have a close relative with macular degeneration, you have a 50-percent chance of developing this condition. A family history of glaucoma increases your glaucoma risk by four to nine times. Talk to family members about their eye conditions. It can help you and your eye specialist evaluate your risk.

3. **Eat healthy food.** A diet low in fat and rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains benefits the entire body, including the eyes. Eye-healthy food choices include citrus fruits, vegetable oils, nuts, whole grains, dark green leafy vegetables and coldwater fish.

4. **Stop smoking.** Smoking increases the risk for eye diseases such as cataract and age-related macular degeneration. Smoking also raises the risk for cardiovascular diseases, which can indirectly influence your eye health. Tobacco smoke, including secondhand smoke, also worsens dry eye.

5. **Wear sunglasses.** Exposure to ultraviolet UV light raises

the risk of eye diseases, including cataract, fleshy growths on the eye, and cancer. Always wear sunglasses with 100 percent UV protection and a hat while enjoying time outdoors.

"Eye exams aren't only about checking a person's visual acuity or sharpness, but also determining the overall health of their eyes," said Rebecca J. Taylor, M.D., clinical spokesperson for the American Academy of Ophthalmology. "We encourage women as well as men to get regular eye care. By making vision a priority today, we can help protect our sight as we age."

January is Glaucoma Awareness Month. Join with the NEI's National Eye Health Education Program and encourage people at higher risk for glaucoma to make a resolution for healthy vision this New Year!

For further inquiries into glaucoma and or any other disability, call NMPASI at 235-7273/4, 235-7275 for TTY or Fax and online at [www.nmpasi.org](http://www.nmpasi.org). You can also visit online at: <https://nei.nih.gov>.

Thomas M. Thornburgh is a projects specialist at the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc.

## CONCERN

From Page 10

ing documents:

1. F.Y. 2016 Interim Financial Statements: Statement of Net Position, as of Sept. 30, 2016; Statement of Revenues, Expenses and changes in Net Position for the year ended Sept. 30, 2016, and Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended Sept. 30, 2016;
2. Aging of Accounts Receivables;
3. Unprocessed insurance claims;
4. Personnel Listing including their annual salaries from F.Y. 2012 through F.Y. 2018, as of Nov. 30, 2017;
5. Policies and Procedures in the following areas:
  - a. Personnel;
  - b. Procurement;
  - c. Healthcare quality services and safety;
  - d. Accounting System;
  - e. Information Technology System;
  - f. Revenue Cycle System
  - g. Off island medical referral;
  - h. Subsidy program for low income;
  - i. Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services
  - j. Financing (i.e. borrowed money from any private or public source);
  - k. Travel, and
  - l. All other operational policies (i.e., clinical, the Kagman Health Center, etc.)
6. Strategic Plan from 2015 to 2020;
7. A Business Plan
8. Types of Electronic commerce;
9. Latest Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Service Site Survey: cite problems cited and status of all citations;
10. Accreditation status of CHCC;
11. Schedule of CHCC's rate fees from FY 2012 through FY 2018, as of Nov. 30, 2017;
12. Types of medical technologies acquired and implemented since the inception of CHCC;
13. Management of federal grants and calculation of the indirect cost rate;
14. Budgets for FY 2012 through FY 2018;
15. Lawsuits and Settlements from FY 2012 through FY 2018, as of Nov. 30, 2017;
16. Annual reports for FY 2015 and FY 2016;
17. Incidents of embezzlements, fraud, illegal activities, sexual harassment, conflicts of interest;
18. Issuance of public monthly financial statements;
19. An accounting of Healthcare Operation Fund since inception of CHCC;
20. Status of CHCC accreditation by national agency;
21. Assessment on the Multi-Year Strategic Plan;
22. Organizational Chart, showing the title and names of CHCC management team;

23. Types of Committees and task groups appointed by CEO;
24. Quarterly report in the quality of the delivery of healthcare;
25. Strategic Plan projection on the legislative appropriations for the next five years; and
26. Types of charitable foundations

Since my letter was transmitted and received by Mrs. Muña over a month ago, the only response I've received from CHCC regarding the matter is a short justification that the \$203,107,017 writeoff was recommended by the public auditor. In my recent communications with OPA, however, I was informed that they could not find in their correspondence with CHCC any mention of this alleged recommendation.

Further, while I understand that my appeal to Mrs. Muña for this list of documents was lengthy, I find it unsettling that not even *some* of this information is readily available as many of these policies and procedures should already be in place, especially those relating to accounting, billing, and collections.

I must also share that, as a Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion reflected in FY '12, '13, '14, and '15 audit reports by Deloitte, CHCC could not substantiate general ledger balances due to inadequacies in accounting records. In addition, the report stated that Management is *responsible* for the preparation and fair representation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S.; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statement that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In corroboration with this information, OPA's Audit of CHCC's patient revenue cycle management in Report AR-17-01, which was issued March 16, 2017, identified 11 audit recommendations. The Report on CNMI Agencies' Implementation of Audit Recommendations dated June 28, 2017, later reported that *all* of these recommendations *remained* unresolved.

Next, it is imperative that we reflect on the extreme amounts of money we have expended to refer our patients off island to seek medical service that our hospital cannot provide. In Dec. 2014, Mrs. Muña acknowledged that "for decades, the people who called the CNMI 'home,' have travelled off-island, sometimes to foreign countries, spending thousands of dollars for healthcare." Leaving your family behind to seek care for medical or behavioral health is not only financially straining on the patient and his or her family, but the necessary emotional support is also limited when a patient must leave off-island. Since FY 2012, Medical Referral costs have more than doubled, from over \$5 million for 645 patients, to close to \$12 million for 1,557 patients in FY 2017. For this reason, we must continue to fight for affordable and accessible healthcare here at home, and this is the ultimate goal with the enactment of this bill.

Again, my only desire in attempting to acquire this information from CHCC was to gain some understanding of its financial

status in order to properly assess ways in which to best assist them. CHCC's unwillingness to work collaboratively, its refusal to provide relevant documentation of expenditures, its inability to showcase tangible progress in the six years of its autonomy (such as a forward-looking healthcare and business plan, or a working billing system in which is long overdue), and most importantly, the *continued* dissatisfaction and suffering of our sick and those in need of healthcare services, has left me to conclude that there is no other alternative but to revert CHCC back under the supervision of the CNMI government. In returning CHCC to its status as a line department, the legislative and executive branches will be better positioned to take the necessary steps to improve our hospital's delivery of services so that *quality* healthcare and, nothing less, can be attainable to the CNMI people in the near future.

I want to make clear that this bill is not intended to impair our hospital or its employees or patients in any way. Where CHCC presently remains financially dependent on government funds, this measure will only allow for the Legislature to continue to ensure that our lone hospital remains adequately funded as well as to ensure that accountability exists in all hospital spending measures.

On Jan. 26, 2016, I pledged to prioritize the improvement of our hospital and the healthcare services they provide to the best of my ability. Today, a little more than two years later, this objective continues to be of the highest importance to me as a member of the CNMI's 20<sup>th</sup> Legislature. Likewise, my colleagues in both the House and Senate have shared in these same sentiments. Therefore, I am confident that they will not hesitate to assist me in accomplishing this critical endeavor. (This includes addressing issues related to the procurement process and CMS among others raised during comments at the House session on Friday.)

As an elected official, my duty is not to assign blame onto others for the shortcomings of CHCC or any other agency, autonomous or not. Instead, it is to seek the necessary means to enhance existing deficiencies. Moreover, my duties require that I make tough decisions when necessary—always with the public's best interests in mind. For this reason, I stand by my decision and intentions in drafting H.B. 20-149.

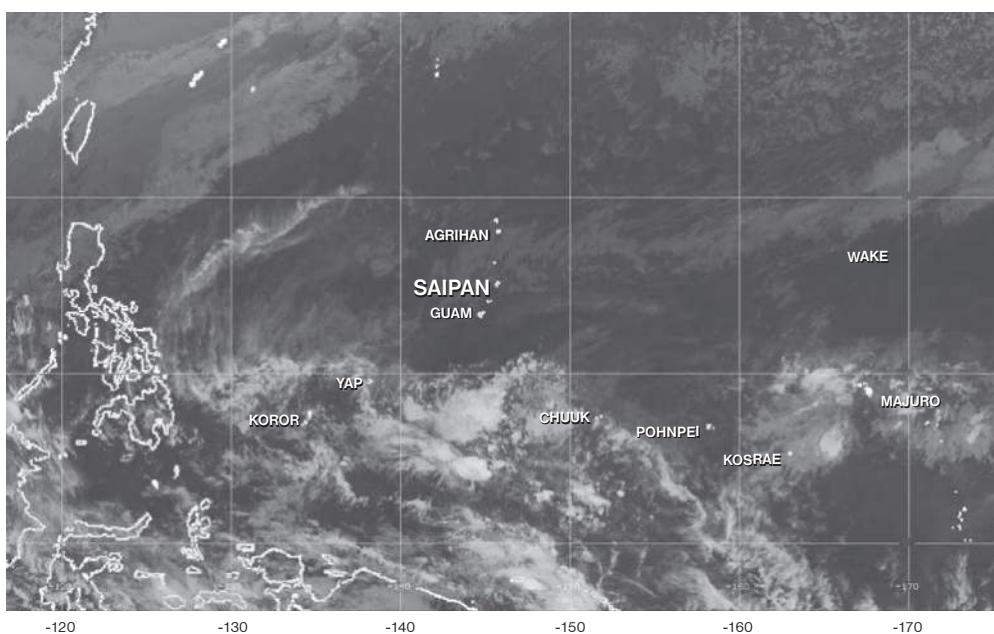
Lastly, and contrary to the belief of H.B. 20-149's critics, I firmly deny any accusations that my drafting of this bill is in any way politically motivated. Just like many of you, CHCC is and has always been the primary healthcare provider for not just myself, but for my own children, grandchildren, and families. I have nothing to gain from bringing harm onto CHCC, nor do I wish to do so. I have drafted this bill with the sole purpose of allowing our lone hospital the opportunity to provide the best quality healthcare services achievable. It is my hope that in meeting this goal, the quality of life for all CNMI citizens and residents will also be achieved. *If we want nothing to change, then we should change nothing.* But where we choose to acknowledge our deficiencies and inability to correct them in our present state, we must also choose not be afraid to take a different approach.

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.			
▲ 89° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



## PICTURE TIME: 6:30 AM, MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

High pressure was located over the north western Pacific it is bringing northeasterly flow to the Marianas. Due to the pressure gradient between this high and lower pressure to the south will keep wind in the 15 to 20 mph range for a good portion of the week.. Wind could increase a bit more on Wednesday as a weak shear line approaches. There were some generally light showers around during the overnight hours. Don't expect very much rain over the next day or so until Tuesday night into Wednesday when there could be a marginal increase with the shear line.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Showers	84°	/	78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84°	/	76°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84°	/	79°
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	85°	/	80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84°	/	79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84°	/	79°
Majuro	Showers	84°	/	79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Windy	75°	/	70°
Beijing	Sunny	37°	/	12°
Hong Kong	Showers	54°	/	46°
Honolulu	Showers	81°	/	72°
London	Partly Cloudy	48°	/	43°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	84°	/	55°
Manila	Showers	84°	/	73°
Melbourne	Cloudy	63°	/	54°
Miami	Windy	69°	/	58°
New York	Cloudy	37°	/	22°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	45°	/	34°
Paris	Showers	52°	/	48°
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	43°	/	28°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	59°	/	45°
Salem	Sunny	51°	/	28°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	58°	/	45°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	34°	/	16°
Tokyo	Sunny	46°	/	34°
Washington, DC	Snow Shower	35°	/	22°



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:28 AM	LOW TIDE	-	-0.56
7:32 AM	HIGH TIDE	-	1.96
12:50 PM	LOW TIDE	-	1.15
5:55 PM	HIGH TIDE	-	2.09

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET	
Today	6:46 AM	6:14 PM	
Wednesday	6:46 AM	6:14 PM	
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:15 PM	
Friday	6:45 AM	6:15 PM	
Saturday	6:45 AM	6:15 PM	

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:07 am	4:53 pm
Wednesday	-	6:08 am	5:57 pm
Thursday	-	7:05 am	7:01 pm
Friday	-	7:58 am	8:01 pm
Saturday	-	8:47 am	8:59 pm

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website: [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: [sales@saipantribune.com](mailto:sales@saipantribune.com)

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily	7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3407	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
UJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	UJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1	JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4</td

# Business

## Strong health sign-ups under Obamacare encourage Democrats

**DENVER** (AP)—Republicans on the campaign trail this year will be eager to tout the potential benefits of their tax cut plan.

Voters like Jeanine Limone Draut, a freelance technical writer in Denver, have something else in mind: health care.

Failed efforts by congressional Republicans last year to repeal former President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act exposed not only deep divisions within the party but also revealed core benefits of the law that millions of Americans now take for granted. Draut is tired of the attacks and the uncertainty surrounding the law's future.

"As a small business owner, it just wreaks havoc on how you do business," Draut, an independent, said of the on-again, off-again repeal talk from Republicans. "I don't know if either party has a solution. My vote is pretty closely

tied to my livelihood."

Both parties are paying attention, especially after a better-than-expected enrollment season under the health care law. Democrats especially have used health care to go on the attack, and the issue is coming up in congressional races in California, Colorado, Michigan, Washington and elsewhere. A Kaiser Family Foundation poll released Friday found health care as the top issue voters want congressional candidates to address.

Enrollment was especially robust in many of the states that operate their own insurance marketplaces, where enrollment periods were longer than on the federal exchange and promotional budgets were beefed up. Strong sign-ups came despite Republican attacks against the law and President Donald Trump's administration



**AP**  
In this Thursday, Jan. 18, 2018, photograph, 27-year-old Caleb Jackson of Greeley, Colo., is shown outside a classroom building of the University of Colorado by Larimer Square in lower downtown Denver.

taking several steps to undermine it, including cutting the federal sign-up period in half and slashing advertising.

California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Maryland, New York, Vermont and other

states with their own exchanges saw enrollment approach or surpass 2017 levels. Minnesota's health insurance exchange set a record for private plans with an enrollment period that was more than two weeks shorter than in 2017.

California's state exchange, the nation's largest, has reported more than 1.2 million renewals for 2018 and an additional 342,000 new customers. Its 2018 enrollment period doesn't end until Wednesday, as does New York's.

Democrats say the level of consumer interest presents a political opportunity.

"We're definitely making it an issue," said Jason Crow, a Democrat who is challenging five-term Republican Congressman Mike Coffman in a suburban Denver district.

Crow has criticized Coffman's vote for the GOP tax bill, which eliminated the tax penalty for people who don't get health insurance. That move is expected to undermine the individual insurance

market starting next year.

More than 22,000 people enrolled last year for coverage on the state exchange in Coffman's district, which went for Hillary Clinton in 2016.

"People in our district recognize the progress we've made under health care. The fact that 20 million more people have health care matters—it matters a lot," Crow said. "And under Trump, we are now moving in the opposite direction."

Coffman encountered hoots and boos at town halls last year for his insistence that Obama's health law be repealed, even though he eventually voted against the legislation. He insists that any replacement guarantee coverage for people with pre-existing conditions.

Coffman's campaign manager, Tyler Sandberg, described the incumbent's approach to health care as nuanced.

## Sharpen interview skills to overcome impression of shyness

**Q: At the end of a recent interview, the manager told me that I would not be getting the job. He said I wasn't a good fit for the position because I was shy. As a naturally introverted person, I found this very discouraging. How can I avoid similar problems in the future?**

**A:** If this manager based his conclusion on observations, perhaps interview anxiety hampered your ability to project your personality or answer questions fluently. In that case, the solution is to sharpen your interview skills. Ask a friend with hiring experience to provide some structured practice, followed by honest feedback and helpful coaching.

But if you voluntarily labeled yourself as shy, you should either avoid that description or neutralize it with a positive twist. For example, if shyness is your standard response to the inevitable question about weaknesses, you can improve your answer with examples showing how you successfully overcame your natural reticence.

It might also help to understand the difference between shyness and introversion. For introverts, extended interaction is physically tiring, so they tend to limit the time they spend with others. Shy folks, on the other hand, become anxious in social situations and often withdraw or shut down. While it's possible to be both shy and introverted, the two are not synonymous.

### YOUR OFFICE COACH

**By MARIE G. MCINTYRE**  
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

*Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.*



Finally, to find a job which suits your personality, you must carefully select your search targets. A sales position requiring constant interaction, for example, would not appeal to anyone who is either introverted or shy. So if this lost opportunity involved extensive interpersonal contact, perhaps you should be thankful that you were screened out.

**Q: In my job as a social worker, I provide services to clients based on complicated and ever-changing policies. Although we have policy specialists who are supposed to help us interpret these guidelines, they never seem to be available. They are always in meetings or helping to train new employees.**

**Policy interpretation is important not only for providing services, but also because we are rated on these decisions during performance reviews. Although I have repeatedly asked for assistance on complex cases, my supervisor has been no help at all. Should I complain about this to higher management?**

**A:** Instead of presenting

complaints, try proposing possible solutions. While the former might get you branded as a whiner, the latter could make you appear helpful and innovative.

Assuming that other social workers share your frustration, start by gathering a group to brainstorm strategies for solving this problem. Collective action will not only produce more ideas, but also increase the impact when you present proposals to management.

Identify the most confusing or difficult policy areas, then prepare a summary of questions which need to be answered. Present this list to an appropriate manager and suggest a meeting to discuss how these policies should be applied.

To address issues as they arise, you might also recommend a monthly case review session to be led by one of the specialists. The obvious selling point for these proposals is that group discussions will not only save time, but also increase consistency. Anyone in management should be able to appreciate that combination.

## Ingvar Kamprad, who founded furniture giant IKEA, dies at 91

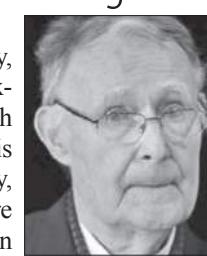
**STOCKHOLM** (AP)—IKEA founder Ingvar Kamprad, who turned a small-scale mail order business started on his family's farm into a furniture empire by letting customers piece together his simple and inexpensive furniture themselves, has died at age 91.

Kamprad died on Saturday at his home in Smaland, in southern Sweden, the chain's Swedish unit, IKEA Sverige, said on Twitter on Sunday. He died peacefully following a short illness, it said.

"He will be much missed and warmly remembered by his family and IKEA staff all around the world," the company said.

The IKEA Group's president, Jesper Brodin, said Kamprad's "legacy will be admired for many years to come and his vision—to create a better everyday life for many people—will continue to guide and inspire us."

Kamprad's life story is intimately linked to the company he founded at age 17 on the family farm. His work ethic, frugality and down-to-earth style remain at the core of its corporate identity today. But his missteps in life, including early flirtations with Nazism, never rubbed off on IKEA, one of the world's most recogniz-



"He wanted to appear a man of the people, one of us," Stenebo wrote in a behind-the-scenes book, "The Truth About Ikea," released shortly after he left the company nearly a decade ago.

Kamprad, who was born on March 30, 1926, was a precocious entrepreneur who sold matchboxes to neighbors from his bicycle. He found that he could buy the matchboxes in bulk very cheaply from Stockholm and sell them at a low price but still make a good profit. From matches, he expanded to selling fish, Christmas tree decorations, seeds and later ballpoint pens and pencils.

He soon moved away from making sales calls and began advertising in local newspapers and operating a makeshift mail order catalog. He distributed his products via the local milk van, which delivered them to the nearby train station.

In 1950, Kamprad introduced furniture, pieces produced by manufacturers in the forests close to his home, into his catalog. After the positive response he received, he decided to discontinue all other products and focus on low-priced furniture.

# Nation

# In State of Union, Trump to make case that America is back

President Donald Trump speaks to reporters upon arrival at the White House in Washington, Friday, Jan. 26, 2018, from the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

AP

**WASHINGTON** (AP) — Seeking to move past the shadow of the Russia investigation, President Donald Trump intends to use his first State of the Union address to cite economic progress under his watch while pushing for bipartisanship with Democrats on issues such as rebuilding roads and bridges.

The White House said Sunday that the president would point to a robust economy and low unemployment during his first year and the benefits of a tax overhaul during Tuesday's address to Congress and the nation. Aides have said Trump, who stayed at the White House over the weekend as he prepared, is expected to set aside his more combative tone for

one of compromise and bipartisanship.

"The president is going to talk about how America's back," said White House legislative director Marc Short. "The president is also going to make an appeal to Democrats ... to say we need to rebuild our country. And to make an appeal that to do infrastructure, we need to do it in a bipartisan way."

Short said Trump would urge Democrats to support additional military spending in light of "dramatic threats on the global scene."

White House officials

have said the theme of the annual address will be "building a safe, strong and proud America" and that Trump was looking to showcase the accomplishments of his first year while setting the tone for

the second.

As Trump looks ahead, special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into possible obstruction of justice and Trump campaign ties to Russian meddling in the 2016 election grinds on.

It often has distracted from the president's message. For example, Trump's address to financial and global leaders in Davos, Switzerland, last week followed reports that he ordered a top White House lawyer to fire Mueller last June but backed off when the lawyer threatened to resign. Trump called the report "fake news."

On the policy front, immigration is an immediate flashpoint for Trump and Congress. In the prime-time speech Tuesday, the president plans to promote his proposal for \$25 billion for a wall along the Mexican

border and for a path to citizenship for nearly 2 million young people brought to the U.S. illegally as children.

Trump's plan includes billions for border security and significant changes to legal immigration long sought by hard-liners within the Republican Party. But some conservatives have warned that the deal would amount to "amnesty" for the young immigrants known as Dreamers, and many Democrats and immigration activists have outright rejected it.

"I think all of us realize that it's going to take a compromise on this issue for us to get something done and to protect the Dreamer population, which is certainly a goal of mine," said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine. "But I think the president is also right about border security, that we do need to beef up

our border security."

Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W. Va., called Trump's proposal "a good starting point."

"Let's see if it's something that we can agree on, something we need to adjust, something we can negotiate with," he said.

Part of Trump's goal in the speech is to set the course of the debate as Republicans look to retain their majority in Congress. He is expected to say the tax overhaul will unleash economic growth and he will point to companies that have provided their employees with \$1,000 bonuses and other benefits.

Trump plans to outline a nearly \$2 trillion plan that his administration contends will trigger \$1 trillion or more in public and private

spending on roads, bridges and other public works projects.

On trade, Trump will note his preference for one-on-one deals instead of multilateral agreements, building on his speech at the World Economic Forum in Switzerland.

And he will offer an update on the fight against terrorism and his view of international threats, including North Korea. A senior administration official providing a preview of the speech said Trump probably would avoid the taunts of "Little Rocket Man" for Kim Jong Un and "fire and fury" that he used before. The official wasn't authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

## GOP senators: Trump needs to show restraint in Russia probe

**WASHINGTON** (AP) —

Two Republican senators said Sunday that President Donald Trump would be wise to keep a public silence on an independent investigation into his 2016 campaign's contacts with Russia in the wake of news reports that he sought to fire the special counsel.

The senators, Lindsey

Graham of South Carolina and Susan Collins of Maine, also urged special counsel Robert Mueller to review whether Trump tried to fire him last June, an accusation the president has labeled "fake news."

"It's pretty clear to me that everybody in the White House knows it would be the end of President Trump's presidency if he fired Mr. Mueller," he said.

Collins said it would certainly "not hurt" for Congress to approve added protections for Mueller given the recent media reports. But she didn't offer a timeline.

"I think the president would be best served by never discussing the investigation, ever, whether in tweets, except in private conversations with his attorney," she said.

The New York Times and other outlets reported that Trump backed off his attempt to fire Mueller last June only after White House lawyer Don McGahn refused to relay his directive to the Justice Department and threatened to quit if Trump pressed the issue.

## Victims' families: Jealousy drove car wash shooting suspect

By BRUCE SHIPKOWSKI  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man suspected of gunning down four people at a Pennsylvania car wash was driven by jealousy, according to family members of the shooting victims.

State police said Timothy Smith, 28, was armed with a semi-automatic rifle, a

.308-caliber rifle and a handgun and was wearing a body armor carrier without the ballistic panels inserted when he opened fire early Sunday morning at Ed's Car Wash in Saltlick Township, a rural town about 55 miles (89 kilometers) southeast of Pittsburgh.

Authorities would not reveal how Smith knew the victims, but Chelsie Cline's half-

Courtney Snyder and 21-year-old Seth Cline were all killed.

Smith was on life support Sunday and not expected to survive after suffering a gunshot wound to his head. State police said it was possible that the gunshot wound was self-inflicted.

Authorities would not reveal how Smith knew the victims, but Chelsie Cline's half-

could do both."

Porterfield's pregnant wife, Jenna Porterfield, 24, told the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review that Smith had developed an obsession with Cline.

Cline shared a meme on her Facebook page last week that read, "After this week, I rly (sic) need to get taken out ... on a date or by a sniper either one is fine w me at this point." A Facebook friend of hers named Tim Smith replied, "I

and her husband - who were married in November - had been "having some troubles" this month.

"I'm not holding that against Will. We weren't fighting. We were fixing. And if he was with someone else while we were having problems, honestly, I don't care what he did. I'm not going to hold that against him," Porterfield told the newspaper. "I'd give anything to have him back."

# Asia

## PH warns powerful volcanic eruption may still come

LEGAZPI, Philippines

(AP)—A Philippine volcano which has repeatedly disgorged fountains of lava, ash and molten rock and driven more than 78,000 villagers from their homes remains swollen with magma and could erupt destructively, an official said Friday.

In its nearly two weeks of erupting, Mount Mayon in the northeastern province of Albay may have ejected roughly 30 percent of its magma but its swollen sides indicate more molten material may have risen near the crater ahead of a potentially more powerful blast, said Renato Solidum of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

"We still have a significant amount within the volcano as it is still inflated," Solidum told reporters in Legazpi city, Albay's capital, where life went on normally within sight of the cloud-shrouded volcano.

"It is possible that it can be transformed into a more explosive phase ... where the actual explosion will be more powerful than what is being shown right now," he said.

Solidum said the possible explosion could be as powerful as Mayon's major eruptions during the last 50 years, including one in 2000 in which it blew ash 17 kilometers (11 miles) into the sky. Some past eruptions have been deadly,



In this Thursday, Jan. 25, 2018, file photo, a public transport driver pauses to look at the erupting Mayon volcano behind a village in Legazpi city, Albay province, around 340 kilometers (200 miles) southeast of Manila, Philippines. AP

including an 1814 blast that buried an entire town in volcanic debris and left 1,200 people dead, but there have been no reports of injuries in its current eruption.

Officials are worried it may continue for months, disrupting the lives and livelihoods of people in Mayon's shadow. They also fear that if a storm blows near, heavy rain could wash down thick ash, lava and rocks in rampaging volcanic flows called lahar and devastate villages in its foothills.

A villager, Alicia Marzen, complained of her family's ordeal in one of the dozens of schools turned into emergency shelters, where children lie on cold floors and some have become sick. "In our room some evacuees have a fever which others acquired because we lay down on the floor," Marzen said. "Now my grandson has a cough and cold."

Elsewhere, residents accustomed to Mayon's fury have gone about their lives as the volcano repeatedly spewed

red-hot lava and ash columns into the blue sky over the past weeks, including in Legazpi, where shopping malls, restaurants and coffee shops continue to buzz.

One couple reportedly went on with their wedding despite the emergency and had pictures taken with the erupting

## Japan foreign minister hopes for improved ties with China

BEIJING (AP)—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono expressed hopes for improved relations with China during talks Sunday in Beijing that also touched on joint efforts to counter North Korea's nuclear program.

In opening remarks to his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, Kono said that as the world's second and third largest economies, China and Japan "have a major responsibility in safeguarding the stability and prosperity of Asia and the world at large."

Wang said China had noted positive remarks about the relationship from Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, but that difficulties still remain.

"At present, the Sino-Japanese relations are at a crucial stage. There is positive progress, but many disturbances and obstacles remain," Wang said.

Japan has pushed for stricter measures against North Korea, which fired a ballistic missile over the Japanese island of Hokkaido in August. In his remarks, Kono stressed the need for a united front against Pyongyang.

"Not only do we need to manage our bilateral relations, but we also need to work together to deal with issues facing the entire globe, in particular the issue of North Korea, which is the matter at hand for the international community as a whole," Kono said.

The sides were working to

arrange a trilateral summit in Tokyo between leaders from China, South Korea and Japan, followed by a visit by Abe to China and a visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping to Japan, said Norio Maruyama, a spokesman for Japan's Foreign Ministry.

Following the talks, Kono met with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and senior foreign policy adviser State Councilor Yang Jiechi.

The official Xinhua News Agency quoted Yang as saying the sides should "set aside interferences, consolidate and expand beneficial factors and further the continued development and improvement of China-Japan relations."

China and Japan experienced a major break in relations in 2012, after Beijing responded furiously to Japan's nationalization of uninhabited East China Sea islands that Tokyo controls but which China claims.

They moved toward normalization with Abe's visit to Beijing in 2014, however, mutual distrust continues to run high, especially over the islands, known in Japan as the Senkakus and in China as the Diaoyus. Taiwan also claims the islands, referring to them as Diaoyutai.

Maruyama said Kono stressed the importance of a coordinated approach to North Korea, but said Japan also raised the issue of recent Chinese incursions into its territorial waters.

volcano as a backdrop.

Farmers, however, have had to abandon their rice, vegetable and poultry farms within an eight-kilometer (five-mile) danger zone around Mayon. The initial damage to agriculture alone during the past two weeks has exceeded \$2 million, Albay provincial agricultural officer Cheryll Ribeta said Thursday.

Mayon has erupted about 50 times in the last 500 years. In 2013, an ash eruption killed five climbers who had ventured near the summit despite warnings.

The Philippines has about 22 active volcanoes. The explosion of Mount Pinatubo in 1991 was one of the biggest volcanic eruptions of the 20th century, killing hundreds.

"We don't want to see anything that can undermine the improving relationship," Maruyama said.

Earlier this month, Tokyo expressed concern when a Chinese nuclear powered attack submarine was found operating just outside Japan's territorial waters. The sub later surfaced in the high seas flying the Chinese flag.

Japanese media quoted Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera telling reporters after the incident that Japan was "seriously concerned over acts that unilaterally raise tensions" and would "respond swiftly if a similar incident happens."

Also this month, three Chinese coast guard vessels passed through what Japan considers its territorial waters surrounding the East China Sea islands in the third such intrusion this month.

Both incidents have been viewed as attempts by China to probe Japan's ability to patrol the area and detect intrusions.

Animosity between the sides owes largely to Chinese resentment over Japan's brutal invasion and occupation of large parts of China. Many Chinese feel Japan has never shown adequate contrition for its acts, a sentiment fueled by the ruling Communist Party's use of heavy-handed nationalistic propaganda in schools and entirely state-controlled media.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Cambodia charges foreigners after pornographic dance arrests

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Cambodian prosecutors charged 10 foreigners Sunday with producing pornographic pictures after they were arrested at a party in Siem Reap town, near the country's famed Angkor Wat temple complex. Police said they raided a rented villa on Thursday where the foreigners were taking part in what organizers billed as a pub crawl and found people "dancing pornographically." While almost 90 foreigners were detained, all but 10 were released. The 10 arrested are five British nationals, two Canadians, one Norwegian, one New Zealander and one from the Netherlands. A statement on the arrests posted on the National Police website Sunday included photos showing clothed young adults rolling around together on a dance floor.

#### Australia plans to become leading defense-industry exporter

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia's government announced a strategy Monday to create high-tech jobs and become one of the top 10 defense-industry-exporting countries within a decade through arms sales to like-minded nations while also keeping those weapons from rogue regimes. Australia will create a 3.8 billion Australian dollar (\$3.1 billion) fund to lend to exporters that banks are reluctant to finance, a central defense export office and expand the roles of defense

attaches in Australian embassies around the world. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said that with AU\$200 billion budgeted to increase Australian defense capabilities in the next decade, Australia should rank higher than 20th among arms-exporting countries. The planned Australian military build-up was the largest in its peace-time history, he said. "Given the size of our defense budget, we should be a lot higher up the scale than that. So the goal is to get into the top 10," Turnbull told reporters.

#### Official: 2 soldiers killed in an attack on Afghan army unit

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Insurgents attacked an Afghan army unit guarding a military academy in the capital Kabul on Monday, and at least two soldiers were killed and 10 others wounded, officials said. A suicide bomber first attacked the army unit responsible for providing security for the military academy, and the attack was followed by a gunbattle in which two soldiers were killed, said Dawlat Waziri, spokesman for the Afghan defense ministry. Waziri said at least 10 other soldiers were wounded in the attack carried out by five insurgents. He said two insurgents were killed in the gunbattle and one was arrested alive by soldiers. "The attack is against an army unit providing security for the academy and not the academy itself," Waziri insisted. The soldiers are looking for another possible attacker, he added.

# World

## Turkish forces target strategic hill near Syria's Afrin

**KILIS, Turkey** (AP)—Turkish troops and allied Syrian fighters captured a strategic hill in northwestern Syria on Sunday as their offensive to root out Kurdish fighters entered a second week.

Associated Press reporters in the Turkish border town of Kilis heard constant shelling and clashes as Turkish aircraft flew overhead and plumes of smoke rose in the distance.

The Turkey-backed forces have been trying to capture the hill, which separates the Kurdish-held enclave of Afrin from the Turkey-controlled town of Azaz, since the start of their offensive on Jan. 20, but have been met with stiff resistance.

The Kurdish militia known as the People's Defense Units, or YPG, said Turkey sent reinforcements to the area following intense airstrikes on Sunday. It disputed the claim that the Turkish troops and allied fighters were in full control of the hill, saying its forces had redeployed and will fight to reclaim the strategic area.

The Turkish military said in a statement that its soldiers and allied Syrian opposition fighters captured Bursayah hill assisted by airstrikes, attack helicopters, armed drones and howitzers. Rami Abdurrahman, head of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, confirmed the Turkish troops seized control of the strategic hill, which



overlooks northeastern Afrin, after intense battles.

Abdurrahman said the airstrikes also targeted the area around Afrin's main dam for the second time since the offensive began. There were no immediate reports of damage to the 17 April Dam, which provides water and electricity to the Kurdish enclave, home to hundreds of thousands of people, many of whom have fled from other parts of Syria.

The Observatory said at least 51 civilians, including 17 children, were killed in the of-

fensive on Sunday, including eight people from the same family. It said 66 YPG fighters and 69 Turkey-backed Syrian fighters were also killed. Turkey says five of its soldiers and 16 allied fighters were killed in the fighting. The YPG said one of its female fighters blew herself up, destroying a Turkish tank in southwestern Afrin.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said in a speech Sunday that there were reports that the YPG was holding Turkish soldiers captive,

adding that Turkey was taking steps to try to bring them back. Erdogan's statement did not make clear the number of soldiers who were missing or whether they were alive.

Reports also emerged that an ancient temple in Afrin was badly damaged in Turkish airstrikes that struck its courtyard late Friday, according to the Observatory, the YPG and the Syrian government. In a statement published on the Syrian state news agency SANA, the government antiquities department condemned the de-

struction of the temple.

Images showed stones piled up in the open courtyard of the temple of Ain Dara, an Iron Age Syro-Hittite temple that dates back to sometime between the 10th and 8th centuries B.C. The temple, which

AP  
A soldier waves a Turkish flag as Turkish troops secure Bursayah hill, which separates the Kurdish-held enclave of Afrin from the Turkey-controlled town of Azaz, Syria, Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018.

features sculptures of lions and sphinxes and "the giant footsteps of the gods," was noted for its structural similarities to Solomon's temple as described in the Bible.

In the images taken of the destruction, none of the statues were still intact, with rubble and metal scraps strewn across the temple's floor.

SANA said a mosque was also damaged in airstrikes in southwestern Afrin.

A Turkish military official said the airstrikes did not target religious or cultural sites, adding that the images were insufficient to determine the cause of the damage. The official spoke on condition of anonymity in line with military rules. The extent of the damage to the temple could not be independently assessed but the Observatory said it was badly damaged.

## Israel says Poland agrees to talks in WWII legislation spat

**JERUSALEM** (AP)—Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday night that Israel and Poland have agreed to hold talks seeking to resolve the uproar over proposed Polish legislation that would outlaw blaming Poland for any crimes committed during the Holocaust.

Earlier, Israel's Foreign Ministry had summoned a Polish envoy to express its displeasure at the bill. But Polish officials dug in their heels, saying the measure was being misinterpreted and its wording would not be changed.

Netanyahu then spoke by phone with Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki late Sunday.

"The two agreed that teams from the two countries would open an immediate dialogue in order to try to reach understandings regarding the legislation," Netanyahu's office said in a statement.

The prime minister said at his weekly Cabinet meeting earlier Sunday that Israel has "no tolerance for the distortion of the truth, the rewriting of history and the denial of the Holocaust."

The lower house of the Polish parliament's bill calls for prison time for referring

to "Polish death camps" and criminalizes the mention of Polish complicity.

The bill still needs approval from Poland's Senate and president. Still, it marks a dramatic step by the nationalist government to enforce its official stance that the vast majority in Poland—a country that was terrorized by Nazi Germany's occupation—acted heroically under those conditions. Historians say many Poles collaborated with the Nazis and committed heinous crimes.

The bill has sparked outrage in Israel and suddenly raised tensions with a close European ally. Israel declared independence in 1948 in the wake of the Holocaust and is home to the world's largest community of Holocaust survivors.

On Sunday, the Foreign Ministry summoned Poland's deputy ambassador, Piotr Kozlowski, to express Israel's opposition to the bill.

It called the timing of the bill, passed on the eve of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, "particularly surprising and unfortunate" and said it expected the draft to be amended before final approval.

## Trump: I would be 'tougher' in Brexit talks than UK's May

**LONDON** (AP)—U.S. President Donald Trump says he would take a "tougher" attitude toward Brexit negotiations than the approach now being used by British Prime Minister Theresa May.

"Would it be the way I negotiate? No, I wouldn't negotiate it the way it's (being) negotiated... I would have had a different attitude," he says in an ITV interview.

He says: "I would have said that the European Union is not cracked up to what it's supposed to be."

Britain is preparing to leave the European Union in March 2019. The complex negotiations have moved slowly and May's Cabinet seems deeply divided over how best to separate Britain from the 28-nation bloc.

Trump expressed annoyance with EU trade policy: "We cannot get our product in," he said. "It's very, very tough. And yet, they send their product to us—no taxes, very little taxes."

He says his problems with the EU "may morph into

something very big" from a trade standpoint.

In the interview with journalist Piers Morgan, Trump has high praise for French President Emmanuel Macron.

"He's a great guy," Trump says. "His wife is fantastic. I like them a lot. You know, we had dinner at the top of the Eiffel Tower, and everything was closed."

He says he looks forward to visiting Britain, where he has been invited for a state visit to be hosted by Queen Elizabeth II, and says he doesn't care that some Britons want him to stay away.

He even joked about his hair: "It's hanging in, barely," he says.

Discussing the upcoming royal wedding that will feature an American bride, he says Britain's Prince Harry and actress Meghan Markle, look like a "lovely couple" and says he doesn't know if he's been invited to their May 19 nuptials.

Told by Morgan that Markle had called him a "divisive mi-

sogynist," the president struck a friendly note: "Well, I still hope they're happy," he says.

Trump also says that his administration might not withdraw from the Paris climate accord if terms more favorable to the United States are reached, in part because he likes Macron.

Asked about his treatment of women, Trump says he has "tremendous respect" for women but does not consider himself a feminist.

"I think that would be, maybe, going too far," he says.

The interview was conducted Thursday during Trump's brief visit to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

The guest list for Harry and Markle's May 19 wedding at Windsor Castle has not been made public. The prince's press team said invitations have not been sent out yet. It is not clear if a final list has been drawn up.

The British press has been filled with speculation that Harry and Markle might snub Trump and invite former U.S.

President Barack Obama as a wedding guest. The prince and Obama have met on several occasions, and Obama gave Harry a rare interview last year that was broadcast on the BBC.

Trump, in contrast, has angered many people in Britain with his crackdown on immigration and his climate change policies.

During the interview, he seemed open to revisiting his pledge to withdraw from 2015 Paris climate accord if the deal could be substantially revised. Under the pact, nations set their own goals to reduce the emissions of heat-trapping gases. Because of legal technicalities America can't get out until November of 2020.

"If somebody said, go back into the Paris accord, it would have to be a completely different deal because we had a horrible deal," Trump says.

"Would I go back in? Yeah, I'd go back in. I like, as you know, I like Emmanuel (Macron). I would love to, but it's got to be a good deal for the United States."

# Focus

**N**EW YORK (AP)—After they lost their home in Puerto Rico to flooding during Hurricane Maria, Engie Melendez fled with her family to the U.S. mainland with three suitcases and the hope it wouldn't take long to rebuild their lives. It hasn't worked out that way.

More than four months later, the family of five is squeezed into two rooms in a hotel in Brooklyn. While her husband looks for work, they are stuck in limbo, eating off paper plates and stepping over clothes in cramped quarters as they try to get settled in an unfamiliar city.

"After the hurricane hit we told the kids that every day was going to be an adventure, but not like this," said the 43-year-old Melendez. "This is turning out to be really hard."

Around the U.S., many Puerto Ricans are similarly adrift in hotels because of the Sept. 20 hurricane. The move north spared them from the misery of the storm's aftermath on the island. But the transition has often proved to be difficult, disruptive and expensive as people try to find housing, jobs, schools and even furniture and clothes to start fresh in the mainland.

Melendez and her family shuffled between staying with relatives to a homeless shelter to a small hotel in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, forcing her to change schools for her three daughters in the middle of the semester.

"The instability is terrible," she said as her husband, who worked as a cook at an Army base near San Juan, used a glass bottle to mash plantains to make a traditional Puerto Rican dish.

Adding to the worries for large numbers of Puerto Ricans is that hotel reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency have started to run out and many say they can't afford temporary housing without assistance.

"It's stressful," said Yalitza Rodriguez, a 35-year-old from the southern Puerto Rico town of Yauco who has been staying at a hotel in Queens with her elderly mother and husband while he looks for work. "If we don't get an extension we will have nowhere to live."

Maria destroyed between 70,000 and 75,000 homes and damaged an additional 300,000, said Leticia Jover, a spokeswoman for Puerto Ri-



In this Jan. 23, 2018 photo, Leslie Rivera is comforted by her daughter Yandeliz during an interview in their hotel room at the Rodeway Inn in Tampa, Florida, where they're living after Hurricane Maria destroyed their home in Puerto Rico. From the central town of Caguas, Rivera has been shuffling among hotels in Tampa, Florida since December with her three kids, ages 13, 10 and 2. (AP Photo/Chris O'Meara)

## Many Puerto Ricans ADRIFT IN US HOTELS after Hurricane Maria

By CLAUDIA TORRENS

Associated Press

co's Housing Department. The effects of the storm included the widespread loss of power, which is still not restored in some places. Many businesses closed. The result has been an exodus to the mainland.

The Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College estimated in an October study that between 114,000 and 213,000 Puerto Ricans would move to the U.S. mainland over the next 12 months. Most were expected to settle in Florida, followed by Pennsylvania, Texas and New York.

FEMA says there are nearly 4,000 families, more than 10,000 people, receiving hotel assistance from the agency in 42 states because their homes in Puerto Rico are too damaged to occupy. The agency

has set March 20 as a deadline for the program to end overall but all cases are reviewed for eligibility every 30 days. It's impossible to know how many are in temporary housing without any aid or staying with families.

Leslie Rivera, from the central town of Caguas, has been shuffling among hotels in Tampa, Florida, since December with her three kids, ages 13, 10 and 2. She was approved for subsidized housing and expects to be settled soon but it has been difficult.

"I feel like I am on the streets because I have no clothes. I have nothing for my kids," the 35-year-old said with tears in her eyes.

Marytza Sanz, president of Latino Leadership Orlando,

which has been helping displaced families, said many don't know where they will go after FEMA stops paying for their rooms.

"There are people with five dollars in their pockets," she said. "They can't buy detergent, deodorant, medicine."

In Kissimmee, in central Florida, Desiree Torres feels nervous. She has spent more than two months in a hotel with her three children. She says she can't find a job and several local shelters have told her there is no space for her and her children.

"I can't sleep at night," said the 30-year-old Torres, who lost her home in Las Piedras, a southeastern town near where the eye of the storm first crossed the island. "I'm wor-



In this Jan. 23, 2018 photo, Leslie Rivera, right, sits with her children, from left, Aaron, Kiara and Yandeliz during an interview in their hotel room at the Rodeway Inn in Tampa, Florida, where they're living after Hurricane Maria destroyed their home in Puerto Rico. "I feel like I am on the streets because I have no clothes. I have nothing for my kids," said Rivera, who was approved for subsidized housing and expects to be settled soon. (AP Photo/Chris O'Meara)

ried about my kids."

After the hurricane, Melendez and her family were forced to sleep for more than three weeks in their garage because of flooding and sewage that entered the home.

They left their four dogs with a friend and managed to get on a humanitarian flight. They spent 10 days at Melendez's father-in-law's Manhattan apartment and a month and a half in a Brooklyn shelter. A Puerto Rican activist helped them enter the hotel.

"My kids were in a Manhattan school. We would wake

up before 5 a.m. at the shelter to take them there. Now they are in a Brooklyn school," she said. "Where will they be tomorrow?"

For now, they survive on a \$1,700 monthly disability payment that Melendez receives along with about \$300 a month in food stamps.

Her 16-year-old daughter, Enghiemar, does her homework on the floor of the hotel room and tries to keep in touch with friends back home by text.

"I always wanted to come and live here," she said. "But not like this."

# Overdrive

# Believe the hype: 2018 HONDA ACCORD

By ROBERT DUFFER  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The redesigned 2018 Honda Accord has won a slew of awards, including the 2018 North American Car of the Year, the industry's most impartial acknowledgment. Awards are like opinions, sure, and the 10th-generation Accord may not be good enough to stop the sales slide of mid-size sedans to crossovers but it should once again overtake the Toyota Camry as the best-selling car in America.

It's lower, leaner, sharper, better equipped, quicker, more fuel efficient, more powerful, more spacious than the outgoing model and pretty much anything else in its class. The top of the line Touring trim could compete with premium brands such as Buick, Infiniti and Honda's own Acura TLX.

Sound crazy? For

\$36,000, it's a deal.

And it looks good.

Lower to the ground with a longer wheelbase and shorter ends, it has an attractive fastback style with a sloping roofline tapering into the rear. It's no German sportback; the Accord has a proper trunk, with 16.7 cubic feet leading the class. Four sets of golf clubs should fit, or three extra teens sneaking into the drive-in (as if).

The coupelike design keeps headroom tight for taller riders, and with the seat at its lowest position it feels as if you're getting in and out of a sport sedan.

Accord is no longer offered with a 278-horsepower V-6 engine because the 252-horse-

power 2-liter turbo four — nearly the same engine as the Honda Civic Type R — offered in Touring trim does more better. It's all about the torque, which, grossly simplified, gets you going, while horsepower keeps you going faster. The outgoing V-6 Accord made 258 pound-feet, while the 2T4 with a 10-speed automatic pumps out 273 pound-feet of torque, most ever for an Accord.

It pops from a stop and drivers might notice a slight pull one way or another from the front-wheel drive system. Torque steer is nearly unavoidable with a car this potent. All that torque is avail-

able at just 1,500 rpm, so this Accord is ready for far more pressing challenges than just passing moves.

Combine its punch with a lower center of gravity and sharp handling, and the new Accord is downright fun. Yup, way more fun than the old V-6, and more fun than Camry's new V-6 in the XSE.

It gets better on the inside. The touch screen, flanked with a tuning AND volume knob is mounted high in the dash, which takes away from the overall neat design. Chrome strips and soft-touch materials balance the wood-like trim to keep it classy, though.

The customizable instrument

# is that good

## NUTS & BOLTS

### 2018 HONDA ACCORD TOURING

- Vehicle type: Midsize sedan
- Base price: \$35,800
- As tested: \$35,800 (excluding \$890 destination)

- Mpg: 22 city, 32 highway
- Engine: 2-liter turbo four-cylinder
- Transmission: 10-speed automatic
- Parting shot: Camry doesn't come close.

cluster — inch for inch the most valuable real estate in the cabin — is what other automakers should emulate. Audi sets the bar, but Honda has leapfrogged GM in setting the pace for mainstream makes. With a toggle of the steering wheel control, the tachometer becomes a 7-inch

cluster — inch for inch the most valuable real estate in the cabin — is what other automakers should emulate. Audi sets the bar, but Honda has leapfrogged GM in setting the pace for mainstream makes. With a toggle of the steering wheel control, the tachometer becomes a 7-inch

Auto awards are a dime a dozen. But the 2018 Honda

Accord is the best midsize sedan on the market.



TNS

The 2018 Honda Accord Sport 2.0T.

## MOTORMOUTH:

By BOB WEBER  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

**Q: I recently purchased a Hyundai with an automatic transmission after driving a stick for the past 23 years. From force of habit, I find myself putting the transmission in neutral at stop lights in my new car, with the rationale that somehow I'm not taxing the transmission by having it in "D" with my foot on the brake. Is there any merit to doing this?**

— K.S., Libertyville, Ill.

**A:** When your engine is idling, it is more or less uncoupled from the transmission by the torque converter. Trans-

## Shifting from manual to automatic transmission can be a grind

mission fluid is being flung around inside the converter, but not very forcefully. As such, there is very little, if any, input into the transmission and so there is no problem with leaving the selector in gear. But, since heat is the bane of transmission fluid, you will sometimes find stop-and-go fleet drivers such as cabbies, popping the tranny into neutral in an effort to cool the fluid a bit. The transmission cooler inside the radiator doesn't help much if there is little airflow.

**Q: What is the lowest temperature you would recommend getting my car washed?**

— A.J., Elmhurst, Ill.

**A:** We answered a similar

question four years ago. What, you missed that column? Didn't save it? Here is what we said: Many washes are closed when the weather is too cold to operate, but we asked the folks at the International Carwash Association. "Unless there is damage such as a crack or chip in the windshield, and the weather is extraordinarily cold, temperature is really not an issue for car washes," said Eric Wulf, CEO. "The issue of freezing locks is one that many people are worried about, but it almost never happens. The keyhole is covered, and unless water is poured into the door and/or air is blown straight into that keyhole, this is also not re-

ally a risk. Plus, most drivers hardly ever use their keys anymore, with the advent of keyless entry." We say, if the car wash is open, go for it no matter the temperature.

**Q: During this recent streak of below-zero weather, my car battery died in our two-car garage. When I went to jump it from my wife's car, I discovered that I could not access the battery on her 2013 Ford Escape. I put the trickle charger on my car overnight and drove to get a new battery in the morning. While at the store, I asked them about the location of the Escape's battery and they told me they won't even in-**

**stall that battery because it is so far back in the engine compartment. What can you tell me about that, and what would my wife do if her battery were to die when she was away from home?**

— B.O., Coons Rapids, Minn.

**A:** The Escape battery is at the rear of the engine, partially under the cowl on the left (driver's) side. There is a plastic cover over it and squeezing the two tabs on the sides releases the cover. You can access the positive (+) terminal, but the negative (-) terminal is hidden beneath the cowl. However, there is a ground lug on the firewall sheet metal

about 18 inches away where the negative jumper cable or charger may be clamped.

*Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60611 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.*

# Life & Style

## Bruno Mars has a magical night at Grammys, winning 6 for 6

By MESFIN FEKADU

AP MUSIC WRITER

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Bruno Mars owned the Grammys with his R&B-inspired album “24K Magic,” winning all six awards he was nominated for at a show where hip-hop was expected to have a historical night.

Jay-Z, the leading nominee with eight, walked away empty handed Sunday—a year after his wife lost album of the year to Adele, causing fans and peers to criticize the Recording Academy for not properly rewarding Beyoncé’s bold “Lemonade” project.

And though Kendrick Lamar won five awards, he lost in the top categories, marking another year where rappers were restricted to wins in the rap categories, instead of earning coveted prizes like album of the year.

Mars picked up album of the year for “24K Magic,” record of the year for the title track, and song of the year—shared with seven co-writers—for the No. 1 hit, “That’s What I Like.”

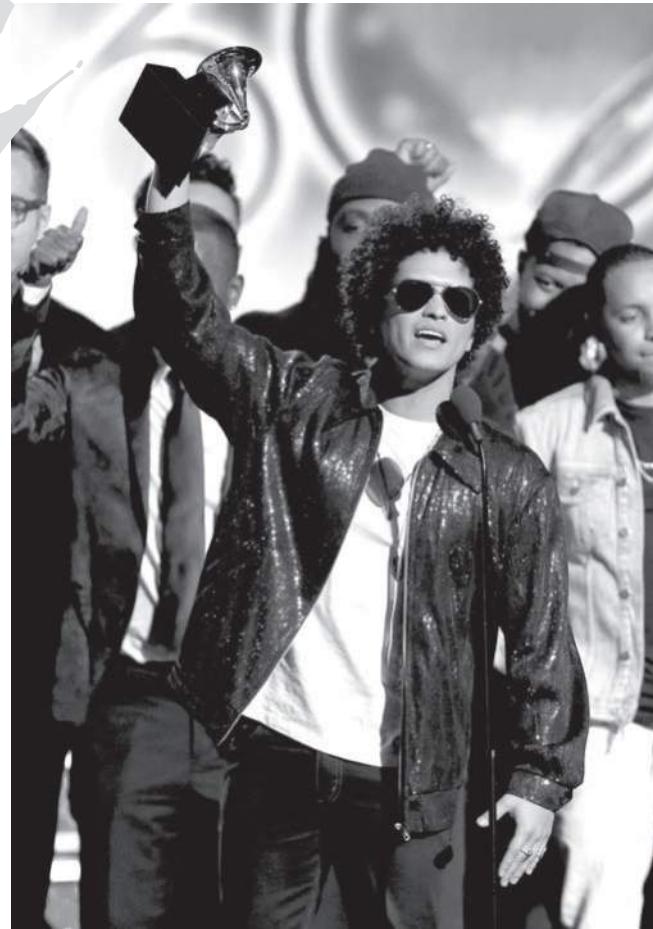
Jay-Z and Lamar could have become the first rapper to win song or record of the year, and the third rap-based act to win album of the year.

But Mars’ win still marked some growth for the Academy: His is one of the few R&B albums to win the top prize. He dedicated his win to songwriters who have made history in R&B music, including Babyface, Teddy Riley, Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis.

Lamar’s wins at Madison Square Garden in New York City included best rap album, best rap song, best rap performance, best rap/sung performance and best music video. He has a career total of 12 Grammys.

Lamar also won with his performance: He kicked off the Grammys with a powerful and poignant performance featuring video screens displaying a waving American flag behind him, as background dancers dressed as army soldiers marched and moved behind him. At one point, Lamar’s background dancers, dressed in red, were shot down as he rapped lyrics, later coming back to life as fire burst to end the six-minute performance.

But the night’s top performer was Kesha, who was passionate and striking onstage with the help of powerful women behind her, including the Resistance Revival Chorus, Cyndi Lauper, Camila Ca-



Bruno Mars accepts the award for album of the year for “24K Magic” at the 60th annual Grammy Awards at Madison Square Garden on Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018, in New York. AP

bello, Julia Michaels, Andra Day and Bebe Rexha. Dressed in white, they won over the audience while singing Kesha’s “Praying” and hugged at the song’s end as some audience members cried, including Hailee Steinfeld.

Kesha, who earned her first pair of Grammy nominations this year, has been in a legal war with former producer and mentor Dr. Luke. Janelle Monae introduced the performance with strong words.

“We come in peace but we mean business. To those who would dare try to silence us, we offer two words: Time’s Up,” Monae said. “It’s not just going on in Hollywood. It’s not just going on in Washington. It’s here in our industry, too.”

Before the performance, Maren Morris, Eric Church and Brothers Osborne performed an emotional rendition of Eric Clapton’s “Tears In Heaven”—written after his son died—in honor of the 58 people who died at the Route 91 Harvest Festival in Las Vegas last year. The names of victims were displayed behind them as they performed.

The performances were two of the show’s serious moments. Dozens of artists and music industry players also sported white roses in support of the Time’s Up and #MeToo movements against sexual abuse and harassment.

“Black is beautiful, hate is ugly,” rapper Logic said

onstage after performing the suicide prevention anthem “1-800-273-8255.” The performance, with best new artist winner Alessia Cara and Khalid, included a group of suicide attempt and loss survivors selected by the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Sting’s performance was somewhat political as he sang his 1987 song, “Englishman in New York,” which includes the lyrics, “Oh, I’m an alien, I’m a legal alien, I’m an Englishman in New York.”

Chris Stapleton paid tribute to Tom Petty with Emmylou Harris and also won three awards, including best country album, best country song and best country solo performance.

“We always try to make great records ... and I guess this is a testament to that,” Stapleton said.

Little Big Town, who beautifully sang their Taylor Swift-penned No. 1 hit “Better Man,” won best country duo/group performance with the song.

Others who shined onstage included Lady Gaga, who won over the audience with a rousing performance of the songs “Joanne” and “Million Reasons”; Sam Smith gave a powerful performance of the song “Pray”; and Pink was a vocal powerhouse while she sang “Wild Hearts Can’t Be Broken.”

During the pre-telecast, The Rolling Stones picked up their

### WINNERS’ LIST

*Partial list of winners in the top categories at the Grammy Awards, announced Sunday by The Recording Academy.*

- Best rap album: “DAMN.,” Kendrick Lamar.
- Best rap song: “HUMBLE.,” Kendrick Lamar.
- Best rap performance: Kendrick Lamar.
- Album of the year: “24K Magic,” Bruno Mars.
- Record of the year: “24K Magic,” Bruno Mars.
- Song of the year (songwriter’s award): “That’s What I Like.”
- Best new artist: Alessia Cara.
- Best pop solo performance: “Shape of You,” Ed Sheeran.
- Best pop duo/group performance: “Feel It Still,” Portugal. The Man.
- Best traditional pop vocal album: “Tony Bennett Celebrates 90,” various artists.
- Best pop vocal album: “Divide,” Ed Sheeran.
- Best rock album: “A Deeper Understanding,” The War on Drugs.
- Best alternative music album: “Sleep Well Beast,” The National.
- Best rap album: “24K Magic,” Bruno Mars.
- Best pop vocal album: “Dreams And Daggers,” Cecile McLorin Salvant.
- Best jazz instrumental album: “Rebirth,” Billy Childs.
- Best compilation soundtrack for visual media: “La La Land.”
- Best music video: “HUMBLE.,” Kendrick Lamar.

third career Grammy—for best traditional blues album for “Blue & Lonesome”—while Ed Sheeran won best pop vocal album. Emmy and Golden Globe winner Childish Gambino, who picked up best traditional R&B performance, gave a smooth and sultry performance of “Terrified” in all-white featuring screeching high notes. Gambino was joined by young singer-actor, JD McCrary, who matched his vocals and sings on the original track.

The show, hosted by James Corden, also featured some comedy. Hillary Clinton, John Legend, Cher, Snoop Dogg, Cardi B, and DJ Khaled won over the audience in a skit when reading lines from Michael Wolff’s book, “Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House.” Corden said the book could compete for the best spoken word album Grammy next year.

“That’s the one,” Corden said in the video after Clinton, a 1997 spoken word Grammy winner, spoke. It earned a rousing applause from the crowd.

### IN LOVING MEMORY OF

## Michael Arriola Manglona ‘Mike’

Born on September 19, 1960, called to his eternal home on January 27, 2018

#### *In his new life, he now joins his:*

**Mother:** †Margarita Sablan Arriola  
**Maternal Grandparent:** †Pedro Torres Arriola & †Rosa Villagomez Sablan  
**Paternal Grandparent:** †Jose Mendiola Manglona & †Ana Ada Manglona (aka Josen Anan Ponape)  
**Son:** †Jerome Andrew Manglona

#### *His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:*

**Wife:** Victoria Capito Manglona  
**Children:** Eugene Carlo Capito Manglona, Michael Capito Manglona, Patrick Capito Manglona & Clarissa, Michael Vincent Manglona, Justin Earl Manglona, Tanya Michelle Camacho Diaz & Justin (Jaziah, Jaenessa, Jaevin)  
**Father:** Herman Ada Manglona

#### *Siblings/In-Laws:*

Bertha Manglona Ogo/+Ben & Children, Martin Arriola Manglona/Dolores & Children, Rosa Manglona Pangelinan/+Vicente & Children, Pedro Jose Arriola Manglona/Maria & Children, Margarita Manglona Bahilo/Manuel & Children, Gregorio Sablan Arriola/Katrina & Children, Debra Ann Atalig Inos/Perry & Children, Andrew Sablan Manglona, Roland Sablan Manglona/Cynthia & Children, Jeffrey Sablan Manglona/Norina & Children

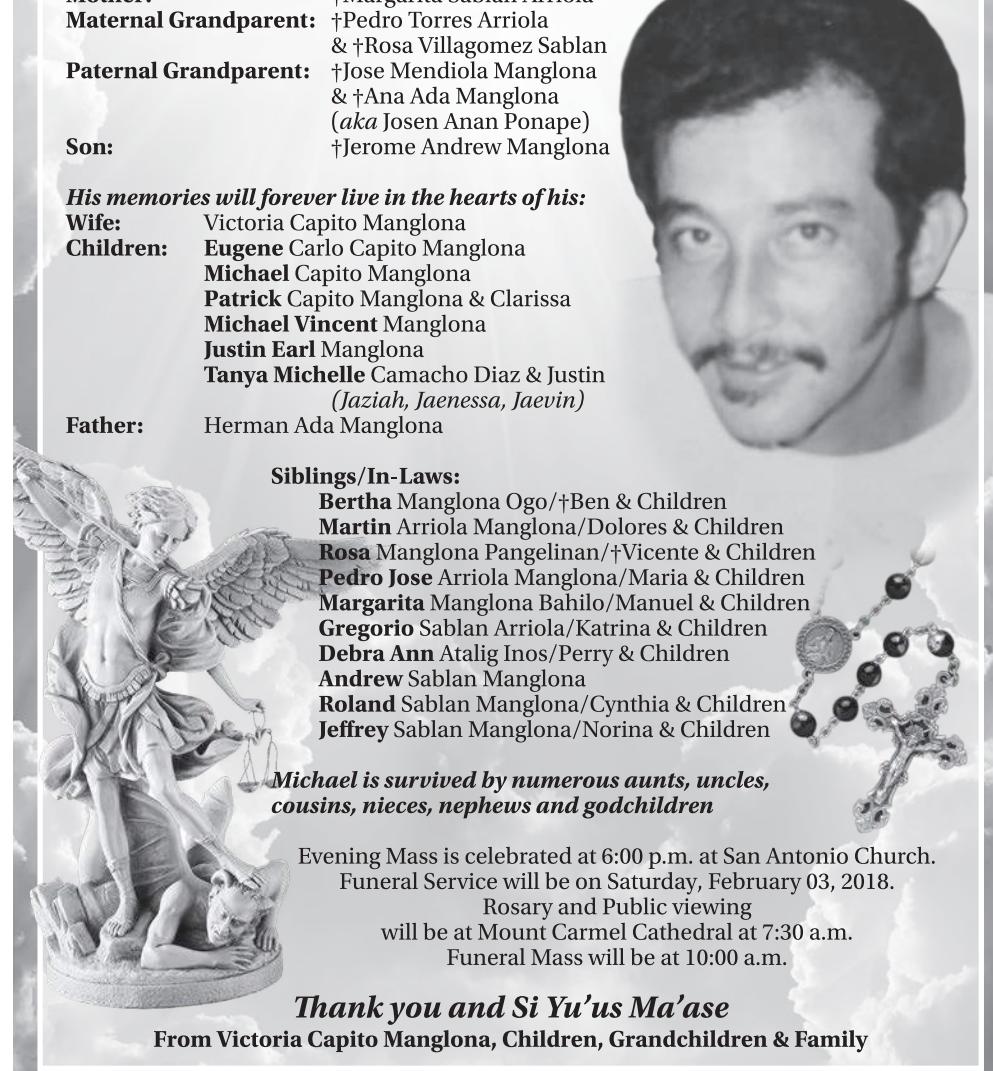
*Michael is survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and godchildren*

Evening Mass is celebrated at 6:00 p.m. at San Antonio Church. Funeral Service will be on Saturday, February 03, 2018.

Rosary and Public viewing will be at Mount Carmel Cathedral at 7:30 a.m. Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 a.m.

*Thank you and Si Yu’us Ma’ase*

From Victoria Capito Manglona, Children, Grandchildren & Family



# Clinton, Cabello and Monae provide Grammys political moments

**NEW YORK** (AP)—One-time Grammy winner Hillary Clinton made it back to the awards show Sunday night in a role she no doubt relished.

She was a surprise guest in a skit by host James Corden, supposedly auditioning for the spoken word recording of Michael Wolff's best-seller on President Donald Trump's administration, "Fire and Fury."

She followed John Legend, Cher, Snoop Dogg, Cardi B and DJ Khaled, all of whom Corden found wanting. The final "auditioner" lowered the book from in front of her face to reveal it was Clinton. Corden said she got the job and was a sure winner.

"You think so?" Trump's 2016 election opponent said.

"The Grammy's in the bag?" Clinton is already a Grammy winner from 1997, for reading her book, "It Takes a Village."

Not everyone was a fan of the moment. United Nations Ambassador Nikki Hally tweeted that the moment ruined the Grammy-watching experience for her.

"I have always loved the Grammys but to have artists read the Fire and Fury book killed it," she tweeted. "Don't ruin great music with trash. Some of us love music without the politics thrown in it."

Show producer Ken Ehrlich said backstage that Corden and his producers did the work of convincing Clinton to appear. They sent her the script

and in a few days, Clinton agreed to do it.

Neil Portnow, head of the recording academy, told The Associated Press that he felt Clinton's appearance was more satirical than political.

"The excerpts that were read from the book weren't really political," he said. "We have a history of pointing out funny things, unusual things about our leadership."

It wasn't the only political moment at the awards show. Like the pre-recorded skit with Clinton, all were meticulously planned.

Three country artists who were on the bill at the country music festival that was the site of a mass shooting in Las Vegas in October joined

to sing a somber version of Eric Clapton's "Tears in Heaven." Eric Church, Maroon Morris and the Brothers Osborne performed before a backdrop with the names of shooting victims.

Singer Janelle Monae spoke up for women's rights in an introduction to Kesha's performance of her song "Praying," which is about fighting back against mistreatment. Kesha accused her former producer, Dr. Luke, of sexual assault. The charges were later dropped, but Kesha's song was an obvious reference to her battle, and she was joined by about a dozen other women singers backing her up.

"To those who would dare try to silence us, we offer

these words: 'time's up,'" Monae said.

Rapper Logic led a song calling attention to a suicide prevention hotline, joined by Alessia Cara and Khalid. "Black is beautiful, hate is ugly," he said at the song's conclusion.

Singer Camila Cabello, a Cuban-Mexican immigrant brought to the United States as a child, spoke in favor of legal protections for so-called "dreamers."

"This country was built by dreamers for dreamers," said Cabello, who introduced the rock band U2. In a pre-recorded performance of their song "Get Out of Your Own Way," U2 was on a barge in the New York harbor with the Statue of Liberty in the background.

At Grammys, Chappelle leads a comic interlude

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The 60th Grammy Awards prime-time broadcast featured no awards handed out for rock or R&B, but comedy—and Dave Chappelle—got the spotlight on music's biggest night.

Chappelle won best comedy album for his first comedy album in more than 12 years: the double album to his first two Netflix specials, "The Age of Spin" and "Deep in the Heart of Texas."

It was one of just nine awards presented in the primetime broadcast (75 awards were handed out in the streaming-only pre-show). Trevor Noah said it was the first time best comedy album made the broadcast because Adele hasn't recorded one yet.

"Boy, I am honored to win an award, finally," said Chappelle of his first Grammy. His "Chappelle's Show" was nominated for three Emmys in 2004 but won none.

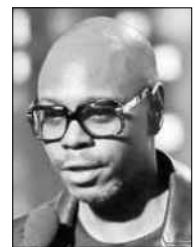
Chappelle won over Jim Gaffigan, Sarah Silverman, Jerry Seinfeld and Kevin Hart. It was something of a foregone conclusion for Chappelle, whose return to stand-up has sparked sold-out shows nationwide and led to what Netflix said was its most-watched comedy specials. Earlier in the show, Gaffigan joked that Chappelle, with the award in the bag, had enlisted him to write Chappelle's acceptance speech.

Chappelle kept his remarks brief, concluding, "See you on Monday." But the comedian was a central part of the broadcast. He joined Kendrick Lamar, Bono and the Edge for the broadcast's opening number. And he also presented the award for best rap album to Lamar, tossing in a shout-out to A Tribe Called Quest and the late Phife Dawg.

"Just remember guys, we're all winners," said Chappelle as he opened the envelope.

Lamar's performance of his song "XXX" was heavy with provocative imagery, including an American flag waving behind him, dancers dressed in military fatigues and men in red hoodies whom Lamar mimed shooting one by one. Twice the music paused for Chappelle, on the side of the stage, to make wry observations.

"I just wanted to remind the audience that the only thing more frightening than watching a black man be honest in America is being an honest black man in America," he said. "Sorry for the interruption. Please continue."



Chappelle

## White roses, Kesha offer rallying cry for women at Grammys

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Dozens of Grammy Award performers and attendees wore or held white roses Sunday in support of the Time's Up movement, in an awards season where every awards show has confronted sexual misconduct in show business.

"My message on this is for everybody to treat each other like we want to be treated," said Reba McEntire, winner for best roots gospel album. "It's the golden rule."

Singer-songwriter Ledisi, nominated for three Grammys and a performer at the Women's March in Las Vegas earlier this month, had this thought: "It's important for us to call out this madness."

Most stars wore black and a Time's Up pin in support of the movement at the Golden Globes earlier this month. At the Screen Actors Guild awards, all the presenters were women.

"I was just saying to someone that it's so commonplace that most of the time women don't even know they've been harassed," said Andra Day, nominated for two R&B Grammys.

"So I think talking about it and changing the narrative about how we should be treated, particularly in this business but across all industries, is important. It's exciting. We're on a precipice right now."

The sexual misconduct scandals that have rocked politics, media and Hollywood haven't so far upended the music industry. Record mogul Russell Simmons is perhaps the biggest industry name accused of sexual misconduct. Former Epic label head L.A. Reid has also faced accusations.

Inside the auditorium, the acceptance speeches largely avoided the issue until the show reached its midpoint and Janelle Monae stepped up to demand safe working environ-



Kesha, left, performs "Praying" as Camila Cabello, center, and Andra Day stand by at the 60th annual Grammy Awards at Madison Square Garden on Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018, in New York. AP

ments, an end to harassment and equal pay for women.

"We come in peace but we mean business," she said. "To those who would dare try to silence us, we offer you two words: Time's Up," adding: "It's not just going on in Hollywood. It's not just going on in Washington. It's right here in our industry, too."

She then introduced a blistering performance of "Praying" by Kesha—joined by Cyndi Lauper, Camila Cabello, Julia Michaels, Day and a choir, all dressed in white. Kesha has been at war with her former mentor and producer Dr. Luke, who she claims raped and drugged her. He

denies the accusations. At the end of the raw performance, the women took turns hugging an emotional Kesha.

Songwriter Diane Warren predicted that a reckoning will come to the music industry eventually. "It's going to," she said. "One hundred percent. It's the worst."

Ever a rocker, Warren skipped the rose on the red carpet but wore two white gloves—one with the word "girl" and one with "power."

"I didn't want to wear the rose. I'm a rebel," she said.

The Time's Up movement supports women with legal and financial help who raise sexual misconduct com-

plaints. While female musicians from every background and genre—from country to rock and rap—spoke in favor of it, many men made a point of wearing the pin.

Dan Reynolds, lead singer of rock-rappers Imagine Dragons, said his three daughters are aspiring artists and he wore a Time's Up pin in their honor.

"I want a different industry for them than there is right now," he said, adding that he saw his wife suffer neglect and abuse in the music industry.

"It's time to talk about that and confront it and to change that landscape. That's all I can hope as a dad—for my daugh-

ters, it's a different landscape."

The white rose was chosen in part because it could be done quickly but also because the color has been long used as part of the women's suffragist movement.

The men included Justin Paul, who with Benj Pasek, won a Grammy for his cast album of "Dear Evan Hansen." He wore a pin in support of "all of the brave women, and men as well, who have spoken up."

Allen Hughes, the director of "The Defiant Ones," actually came to the Grammys wearing two small roses on his lapel.

"I'm a feminist," he explained.

# Rousey shifts to wrestling with surprise Royal Rumble cameo

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Ronda Rousey has ditched UFC for WWE.

Once the most dangerous women in MMA, Rousey officially made the anticipated jump to WWE on Sunday night with a surprise appearance at the Royal Rumble in Philadelphia.

The former UFC bantam-weight champion also told ESPN that she's fully committed to wrestling and not just planning cameos at WWE's biggest events.

"This is my life now. Yeah, they have first priority on my time for the next several years," she said. "This is not a smash and grab, this is not a publicity stunt."

Rousey appeared to roaring fans Sunday night after the women's Royal Rumble in Philadelphia, and pointed to a WrestleMania sign—scheduled for New Orleans in April—as Joan Jett's "Bad Reputation" blared through the arena.

Rousey smiled when Royal Rumble winner Asuka slapped her hand away on an offer for a handshake. Rousey left the ring and walked over to WWE executive and Royal Rumble commentator Stephanie McMahon. Rousey shook hands with McMahon and left without saying a word. She slapped hands with fans at ringside.

Rousey fed into the surprise with a little misdirection before one of wrestling's biggest pay-per-view events of the year. Before getting in the ring, she had ruled out an appearance at the Royal Rumble in an interview and even posted an Instagram video over the weekend of herself in Colombia enjoying a night out with the crew filming her latest movie, the action thriller "Mile 22" with Mark Wahlberg and John Malkovich.

Still, she had frequently met with WWE executive Paul Levesque, better known as wrestling superstar Triple H, to discuss her interest in a deal that finally came to fruition.

She has not fought since she suffered a 48-second loss to Amanda Nunes at UFC 207 in December 2016. Rousey (12-2) lost two straight bouts in 13 months and took a break to extend her entertainment credits, including a stint as team coach in the reboot of "Battle of the Network Stars."

WWE fans have been clamoring for Rousey to make the move and speculation (correctly) ran wild on a Royal Rumble appearance at the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia. Rousey has made cameo appearances on WWE programming the last few years and even trained at the company's performance center in Orlando, Florida.

It's unclear whether Rousey plans to fully give up on the UFC and mixed martial arts, and she would not commit



to saying she's retired when asked directly by ESPN.

"That's what everybody else seems to say—I mean, I never retired from judo. So that's what you guys want to think," she said. "All I know is I really want to devote 100 percent of my time to wrestling right now and whatever people want to call that they can call it."

UFC President Dana White said Rousey will never fight again for the company, and Rousey said she hasn't followed MMA in the past year.

Rousey adopted the "Rowdy" nickname from WWE

Hall of Famer "Rowdy" Roddy Piper. She wore a "Hot Rod" shirt to the ring Sunday at the Royal Rumble.

Rousey notably stood side-by-side with Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson as they fought off the villainous Triple H and McMahon in a segment at WrestleMania in 2015.

Rousey also appeared at WWE's Mae Young Classic. Rousey and fellow MMA fighters Marina Shafir, Shayna Baszler and Jessamyn Duke were known as the Four Horsewomen—a tribute to the nefarious Ric Flair-led Four Horsemen stable of the

1980s and '90s. Baszler now wrestles for WWE, and the rest of the Horsewomen stable confronted WWE stars Charlotte Flair, Becky Lynch and Bayley at the female wrestling tournament.

"Name the time. Name the place," Rousey told the WWE stars in a tense standoff.

## Trump wants Jay-Z to know black jobless rate at record low

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is urging his followers to inform rapper Jay-Z that "because of my policies," unemployment among black Americans is at the "LOWEST RATE EVER RECORDED!"

The president's tweet Sunday appears to be in response to a CNN interview in which the rapper said the president's vulgar comments about African countries and Haiti were "disappointing" and "hurtful."

This July 15, 2015, file photo shows mixed martial arts fighter Ronda Rousey working out at Glendale Fighting Club in Glendale, Calif. (AP)

Rousey could lead her Horsewomen against a WWE faction at WrestleMania on April 8.

"I think with her main eventing in UFC, she obviously opened the door for us to be taken more seriously as superstars," said Flair, daughter of WWE Hall of Famer Ric Flair. "It's one thing to show up one night. It's another to be a WWE superstar. I'm on the road with all the other girls, all the men and women who are on the road 270 days a year. We bust our butts to be called WWE superstars."

"She'll have to put in the work if she wants to be a part of what we do."

The best scenario for WWE could be Rousey being used sparingly and steamrolling every opponent, much like she did early in her MMA career to earn the reputation as the Baddest Woman on the Planet.

## Trump wants Jay-Z to know black jobless rate at record low

Jay-Z said on the debut episode of "The Van Jones Show" on Saturday that lower unemployment among blacks doesn't make up for the president's attitude. Jay-Z says, "It's not about money at the end of the day," and it "doesn't equate to happiness."

Asked about the president's tweet as he attended the Grammys Sunday night, Jay-Z's producer No I.D. says the back-and-forth is "a conversation that needs to occur."

## Alec Baldwin criticizes Dylan Farrow's Woody Allen claims

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Actor Alec Baldwin is once again using Twitter to question Dylan Farrow's allegations of sexual abuse from her adoptive father Woody Allen.

Baldwin on Sunday compared Farrow to the "To Kill a

Mockingbird" novel character Mayella Ewell, who falsely accuses a man of rape.

Earlier this month, Baldwin said Farrow's renunciation of Allen and his work is "unfair and sad."

Farrow has said Allen molested her in an attic in 1992 when she was 7 years old.

Allen has long denied the allegations and was investigated but not charged.

Farrow in January gave her first on-camera interview to "CBS This Morning" about

her longstanding abuse allegations against the 82-year-old filmmaker.

Baldwin in his tweet credited Farrow for having "persistence of emotion" but did not explain what he meant by that.

## Relative gladly funds niece's insurance, but not vacations

**D**EAR ABBY: My 25-year-old niece still lives at home. She works full time and attends college online. She's a hard worker who doesn't do drugs or engage in risky behavior.

I pay her a bonus for every A she earns, and I also pay for her health insurance. While I gladly pay the college bonuses, I have misgivings about continuing to pay for her health insurance, even though I can afford it. She doesn't make much money at her job, but she goes out to restaurants and bars often, attends concerts and takes trips out of state three or four times a year.

When I was her age, I also went to college, worked a low-paying job and lived with my mother. Although I went out with friends often, I never wasted money on those other things—especially vacations. Should I continue paying her health insurance for her? I don't know if I'm being judgmental or enabling irresponsible behavior.

PROTECTIVE IN HOUSTON

**DEAR PROTECTIVE:** You are obviously a generous person, but yes, you are being judgmental. Your niece is working, studying and living a clean and healthy life. You had a social life when you were your niece's age; you should not begrudge her having hers.

Going to restaurants, bars and concerts is normal

for a young woman her age. However, if you prefer not to subsidize the vacations because you feel they are excessive, discuss your feelings with her before deciding what to do.

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband and I have lived like nomads for the last few years. We have bought, sold and moved many times for all sorts of silly reasons. Our 5-year-old daughter finally started school, yet we don't feel at home here. We now realize buying and selling may not be for us, so we are renting, but we still aren't happy.

We moved here to be close to my oldest and dearest friend, whose kids are now grown, and to my sister, who hardly talks to us or sees us. My husband's sister and her husband's family love us and treat us well. They have suggested we should move by them. They have kids our daughter's age. The only issue is possibly not finding a good home or school. Private school could be an option.

Would another move be bad? Should we make a final move before our daughter gets vested in school and friends? It would put us within walking distance to several families we spend a lot of time with and who love us very much. We are afraid of judgment from everyone. Please help us sort it out.

HOPEFUL NOMADS IN ILLINOIS

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

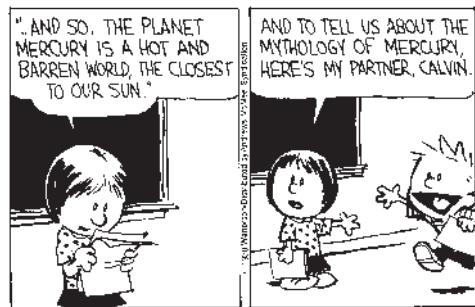


**DEAR NOMADS:** Forget about the judgments. You will survive them. The older your daughter becomes, the more difficult moving away from the people she knows will be for her. If you are going to move to an environment more compatible for you, your husband and your daughter, the time to do it is now, so her education and social relationships will not be as disrupted as they would be when she is older.

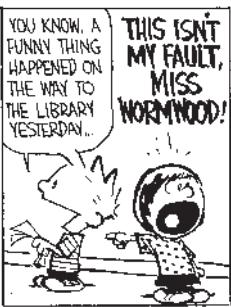
Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®



By Jim Davis



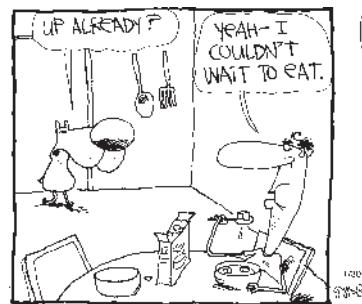
## Adam@home



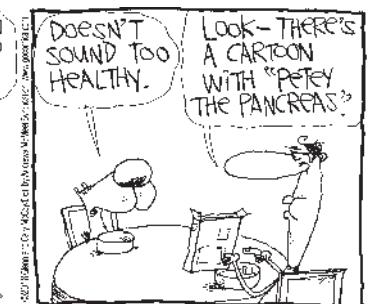
By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	39	Sphere	3	Novelist	24	The	whole	enchilada	25	Pot brew	26	California's	Big —	27	Have	28	Calendar	abbr.	29	Firmament	31	Nap site	34	Daytona	500	acronym	35	Frisbee,	e.g.	36	Monk's	title	37	Missing	39	Mary-	Kate or	Ashley	40	Tennis	great	Arthur	41	Huff and	puff	42	Harvard	rival	43	Winter	blanket	44	Donald	Duck's	nephew	45	Ireland	46	Actor's	quest	48	JFK info																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																													
1	Bridge	40	Void	43	Horror	47	Relaxes	49	Franc	50	Spanish	51	Water	52	Astronaut	53	Ornamental	54	Bristle	55	Daly of	56	"Judging	57	Amy"	58	Entreaty	59	Church	60	area	61	Mineral-	62	hardness	63	scale	64	name	65	name	66	name	67	name	68	name	69	name	70	name	71	name	72	name	73	name	74	name	75	name	76	name	77	name	78	name	79	name	80	name	81	name	82	name	83	name	84	name	85	name	86	name	87	name	88	name	89	name	90	name	91	name	92	name	93	name	94	name	95	name	96	name	97	name	98	name	99	name	100	name	101	name	102	name	103	name	104	name	105	name	106	name	107	name	108	name	109	name	110	name	111	name	112	name	113	name	114	name	115	name	116	name	117	name	118	name	119	name	120	name	121	name	122	name	123	name	124	name	125	name	126	name	127	name	128	name	129	name	130	name	131	name	132	name	133	name	134	name	135	name	136	name	137	name	138	name	139	name	140	name	141	name	142	name	143	name	144	name	145	name	146	name	147	name	148	name	149	name	150	name	151	name	152	name	153	name	154	name	155	name	156	name	157	name	158	name	159	name	160	name	161	name	162	name	163	name	164	name	165	name	166	name	167	name	168	name	169	name	170	name	171	name	172	name	173	name	174	name	175	name	176	name	177	name	178	name	179	name	180	name	181	name	182	name	183	name	184	name	185	name	186	name	187	name	188	name	189	name	190	name	191	name	192	name	193	name	194	name	195	name	196	name	197	name	198	name	199	name	200	name	201	name	202	name	203	name	204	name	205	name	206	name	207	name	208	name	209	name	210	name	211	name	212	name	213	name	214	name	215	name	216	name	217	name	218	name	219	name	220	name	221	name	222	name	223	name	224	name	225	name	226	name	227	name	228	name	229	name	230	name	231	name	232	name	233	name	234	name	235	name	236	name	237	name	238	name	239	name	240	name	241	name	242	name	243	name	244	name	245	name	246	name	247	name	248	name	249	name	250	name	251	name	252	name	253	name	254	name	255	name	256	name	257	name	258	name	259	name	260	name	261	name	262	name	263	name	264	name	265	name	266	name	267	name	268	name	269	name	270	name	271	name	272	name	273	name	274	name	275	name	276	name	277	name	278	name	279	name	280	name	281	name	282	name	283	name	284	name	285	name	286	name	287	name	288	name	289	name	290	name	291	name	292	name	293	name	294	name	295	name	296	name	297	name	298	name	299	name	300	name	301	name	302	name	303	name	304	name	305	name	306	name	307	name	308	name	309	name	310	name	311	name	312	name	313	name	314	name	315	name	316	name	317	name	318	name	319	name	320	name	321	name	322	name	323	name	324	name	325	name	326	name	327	name	328	name	329	name	330	name	331	name	332	name	333	name	334	name	335	name	336	name	337	name	338	name	339	name	340	name	341	name	342	name	343	name	344	name	345	name	346	name	347	name	348	name	349	name	350	name	351	name	352	name	353	name	354	name	355	name	356	name	357	name	358	name	359	name	360	name	361	name	362	name	363	name	364	name	365	name	366	name	367	name	368	name	369	name	370	name	371	name	372	name	373	name	374	name	375	name	376	name	377	name	378	name	379	name	380	name	381	name	382	name	383	name	384	name	385	name	386	name	387	name	388	name	389	name	390	name	391	name	392	name	393	name	394	name	395	name	396	name	397	name	398	name	399	name	400	name	401	name	402	name	403	name	404	name	405	name	406	name	407	name	408	name	409	name	410	name	411	name	412	name	413	name	414	name	415	name	416	name	417	name	418	name	419	name	420	name	421	name	422	name	423	name	424	name	425	name	426	name	427	name	428	name	429	name	430	name	431	name	432	name	433	name	434	name	435	name	436	name	437	name	438	name	439	name	440	name	441	name	442	name	443	name	444	name	445	name	446	name	447	name	448	name	449	name	450	name	451	name	452	name	453	name	454	name	455	name	456	name	457	name	458	name	459	name	460	name	461	name	462	name	463	name	464	name	465	name	466	name



# Thunder beat 76ers for 8th straight victory



**OKLAHOMA CITY** (AP)—The Thunder and Philadelphia 76ers aren't even in the same conference, yet they played as though they were longtime rivals.

Russell Westbrook scored 37 points, Paul George added 31, and Oklahoma City beat Philadelphia 122-112 on Sunday night for its eighth straight victory.

The game was more intense than usual from the start, with a lot of extra trash talking and bumping. The teams combined for 51 fouls and 61 free throw attempts. It carried over from Oklahoma City's triple-overtime victory in Philadelphia in December.

"Leading into this game, after a little talk after game one, I think to this game, I kind of was looking forward to it," Westbrook said. "But you know—Oklahoma City 2-0."

Westbrook made just 6 of 20 shots in the first half, when he was knocked to the ground trying to take a charge as Joel Embiid threw down a vicious dunk over him. He was 8 of 13 in the second half and also had 14 assists and nine rebounds.

George shot 9 of 17 a day after being named the All-Star replacement for New Orleans' DeMarcus Cousins. The Thunder are 7-0 when George scores at least 30 points and 11-4 when he scores at least 25.

Steven Adams added 20 points and 13 rebounds for the Thunder. He made 10 of 11 shots for the Thunder and grabbed 10 offensive rebounds.

Embiid had 27 points and 10 rebounds, and Ben Simmons added 22 points for the 76ers.

It was a bittersweet day for the Thunder. The team announced Sunday that guard Andre Roberson is expected to miss the rest of the season after having surgery on a ruptured left patella tendon. Roberson, who was a second-team All-Defense selection last season, was injured when his knee buckled and he fell during the third quarter Saturday at Detroit.

"It's tough," Westbrook said. "Dre is my boy. I love having him on the floor with me, and it's a tough situation for him. We are just going to continue to lift him up and pray for him, keep our spirits high for him and keep this thing rolling."

George hit a 3-pointer at the first-half buzzer to trim Philadelphia's lead to 58-57.

A dunk by Simmons put the 76ers up 75-68 early in the third before the Thunder got things going.

The Thunder led 92-83 at the end of the third. Oklahoma City shot 60 percent from



the field in the period and held Embiid to two points.

## Cavaliers 121, Pistons 104

In Cleveland, LeBron James had 25 points, 14 assists and narrowly missed his second straight triple-double, and Cleveland sent Detroit to its eighth straight loss.

Cleveland has won consecutive games for the first time since a five-game winning streak Dec. 9-17.

James was 8 of 15 from the field, 8 of 9 from the foul line and had eight rebounds. Kevin Love had 20 points and 11 rebounds.

Tobias Harris and Anthony Tolliver each scored 20 points for the Pistons.

## Raptors 123, Lakers 111

In Toronto, Fred VanVleet scored a career-high 25 points, DeMar DeRozan had 19 and Toronto snapped Los Angeles' winning streak at four games.

Kyle Lowry had 14 points and 11 rebounds, and Jonas Valanciunas added 13 points and 10 rebounds to help the Raptors win their seventh straight over the Lakers.

The victory guarantees the Raptors will have the second-best record in the Eastern Conference through Feb. 4, meaning Dwane Casey will coach Team LeBron in the All-Star Game. Boston's Brad Stevens, whose Celtics lead the Eastern Conference, is ineligible after coaching last year's game.

Julius Randle had 17 points and 10 rebounds, and Jordan Clarkson also scored 17

points for the Lakers.

## Spurs 113, Kings 98

In San Antonio, Bryn Forbes scored a season-high 23 points, helping San Antonio overcome a sluggish start in a game in which Sacramento coach Dave Joerger left in the opening minutes after a dizzy spell.

LaMarcus Aldridge and Manu Ginobili each added 15 points in San Antonio's 13th straight win over Sacramento. Dejounte Murray had 14 points and 10 assists, and Pau Gasol had 14 points and

11 rebounds.

Joerger exited two minutes into the game after slapping his hands together after a non-call, taking two steps toward midcourt and then turning toward his bench and dropping to one knee. He braced himself with one hand on the court and another on a staff member before rising with the help of another staff member. He was taken to the locker room and was examined by a Spurs team doctor. A San Antonio official said Joerger was experiencing lightheadedness and was being kept in the locker room for precautionary reasons.

## Clippers 112, Pelicans 103

In New Orleans, Blake Griffin had 27 points and 12 rebounds, and made a crushing 3-pointer with 43 seconds left, leading Los Angeles past New Orleans in the Pelicans' first game since a season-ending injury to All-Star center DeMarcus Cousins.

Lou Williams added 22 points, and DeAndre Jordan had 12 points and 19 rebounds

Philadelphia 76ers guard Ben Simmons (25) and Oklahoma City Thunder center Steven Adams, right, reach for the ball in the second half of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018. AP

for the Clippers.

Anthony Davis had 25 points and 17 rebounds for the Pelicans. They'd won seven of eight coming in, but were playing for the first time all season without Cousins, who averaged 25.2 points and 13.9 rebounds before tearing his Achilles tendon in the final seconds of a victory over Houston on Friday night.

## Rockets 113, Suns 102

In Houston, James Harden had 27 points and 10 rebounds to lead Houston.

Harden fell two assists shy of his third triple-double of the season. The Rockets beat Phoenix for the 14th time in their past 16 meetings, including seven straight.

Devin Booker had 31 points and 10 assists for Phoenix, shooting 5 for 9 from beyond the arc. He scored 21 points in the second half to keep the Suns close. T.J. Warren added 24 points.

## Bucks 110, Bulls 96

In Chicago, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 27 points, nine rebounds and eight assists to help Milwaukee improve to 3-0 since interim coach Joe Prunty replaced the fired Jason Kidd.

Khris Middleton added 20 points and seven rebounds.

Denzel Valentine scored 18 points for the Bulls.

## AFC rallies to prevail in Pro Bowl, 24-23



### ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)

Tennessee's Delanie Walker caught two touchdown passes, including an 18-yarder with 1:31 remaining, and the AFC beat the NFC 24-23 in a rain-soaked Pro Bowl on Sunday.

Oakland's Derek Carr completed 11 of 15 passes for 115 yards and connected with Walker on a skinny post for the winning score.

Denver's Von Miller sealed the victory when he caused and recovered a fumble by Los Angeles Rams quarterback Jared Goff. Miller posed problems all afternoon for the NFC.

The AFC overcame a 17-point halftime deficit and four turnovers to win the annual all-star game.

Heavy downpours were partly to blame for the sloppiness.

The rain prompted some

fans to leave Camping World Stadium and others to break out ponchos. It also caused players on both sidelines to scramble to protect cellphones.

Running back Mark Ingram and New Orleans teammate Cameron Jordan had their phones in hand during introductions, and dozens more could be seen using them on the sidelines early in the game. They shoved them in plastic bags as the rain started.

Each of the AFC quarterbacks—Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlisberger, Kansas City's Alex Smith and Carr—threw interceptions. And Kansas City returner Tyreek Hill muffed a punt.

Carr made up for his mistake by completing a 12-yard pass to Jarvis Landry on a fourth-and-7 play in the waning minutes. He found Walker down the middle three plays later.

Walker was voted the of-

fensive MVP, and Miller was the defensive MVP.

The NFC looked like it would coast to a victory early as two Minnesota Vikings made big plays a week earlier than they wanted and a week later than they needed.

Adam Thielen had a touchdown reception, and Harrison Smith returned an interception for a score as the NFC opened up a 20-3 lead at halftime.

Thielen, Smith and three teammates represented the Vikings in the Pro Bowl.

They showed up a few days removed from a 38-7 drubbing at Philadelphia in the NFC championship game, which was essentially over by halftime. The Vikings had been trying to become the first to play the Super Bowl in their home stadium. Instead,

the Eagles and New England will meet in the Super Bowl in Minneapolis next Sunday.

The Vikings were forced to settle for good seats to the NFL's showcase event—and a trip to Orlando for their five Pro Bowl selections.

Thielen and Smith provided two early highlights for the NFC. Vikings tight end Kyle Rudolph also did his part, catching seven passes for 70 yards.

Thielen caught an 8-yard TD pass from Drew Brees, and Smith picked off a deep pass from Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlisberger and weaved his way 79 yards through several half-hearted tackles for a score.

But the NFC failed to hold onto the big lead. Goff threw incomplete on two fourth-down passes late as Saints coach Sean Payton tried to keep drives alive and milk the clock.

The game had more defensive gems than usual. Still, there was more two-hand touch than hard-nosed tackling.

# Weeping Federer gets record 20th major title



**MELBOURNE, Australia**—As Roger Federer cried while accepting his 20th Grand Slam title, Rod “Rocket” Laver took a chance to snap a picture for posterity.

Federer has won more major tennis titles than any man, including a record-equalling six on the court that bears the great Rod Laver’s name at Melbourne Park.

This one, following a tension-filled, momentum-swinging 6-2, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 win over Marin Cilic in Sunday’s Australian Open final, was a keeper.

Laver has been involved in the on-court presentations in the past, witnessing Federer’s tears at close range. This time, Lave—the only man to twice win all four Grand Slam titles in one season—held up his mobile phone to get the shot from the stands.

“I didn’t see that through my thick tears, that he was taking a picture of me crying,” Federer said. He joked in a TV interview that “I couldn’t lift my head, I was so embarrassed.”

Surely, it’s only an embarrassment of riches.

Federer arrived in Melbourne at the start of 2017 after an extended injury lay-off and on a Grand Slam title drought that dated back to 2012 at Wimbledon. Having successfully defended his Australian title, Federer has now won three of the last five majors in a stunning career resurgence.

“I’m so happy. It’s unbelievable,” Federer said, tak-

ing deep breaths and choking back tears. “Of course, winning is an absolute dream come true—the fairytale continues for us, for me, after the great year I had last year, it’s incredible.”

Federer started to tear up toward the end of the trophy ceremony as he thanked his team in the stands: “I love you guys. Thank you.”

He then received a standing ovation as tears streamed down his face.

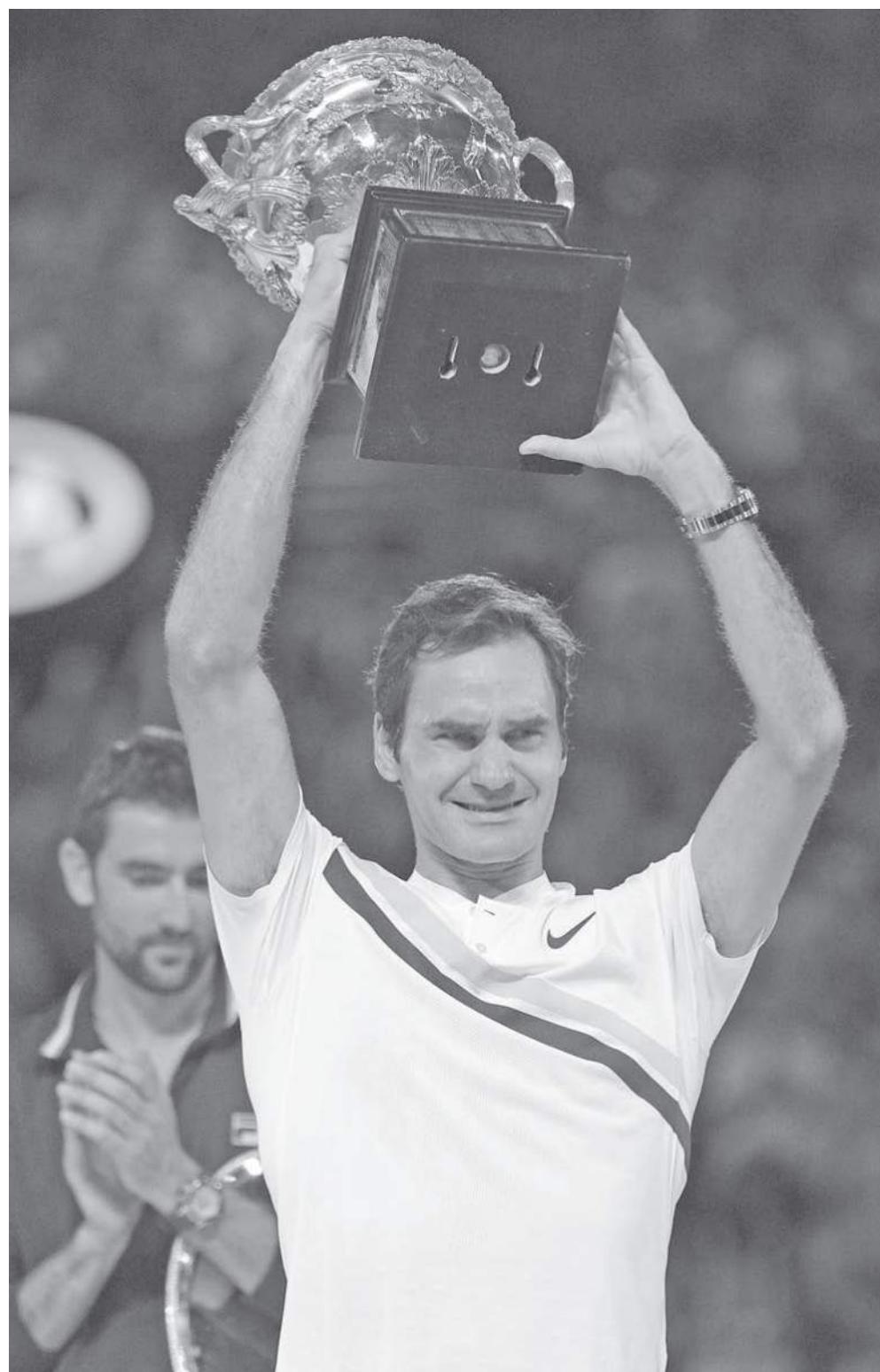
At the age of 36 years, 173 days, Federer became the second-oldest man to win a Grand Slam title in the Open era after Ken Rosewall, who won the 1972 Australian Open at 37.

The match wasn’t entirely without controversy after organizers decided early to close the roof for the final, just as they had for the afternoon mixed doubles final when Mate Pavic and Gabriela Dabrowski beat Rohan Bopanna and Timea Babos for the title.

Former champions were among the commentators questioning the decision, suggesting there’d been hotter days earlier in the tournament when the heat policy was not enacted.

“I was surprised to hear they had the heat rule in place for a night match. I never heard that before,” Federer said. “Half an hour before, we got the word that it’s going to be indoors. For me, it doesn’t change anything in the preparation, to be honest. I was ready for either.”

Tournament referee Wayne McEwen has the option of



Switzerland’s Roger Federer fights off his tears as he holds up his trophy after defeating Croatia’s Marin Cilic in the men’s singles final at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018.

match for the final to play with the roof closed, it’s difficult.

“It was just little bit difficult to adjust, especially the beginning of the match,” he said, “especially for the final to be in that kind of a situation.”

It was clear early on that the crowd would be heavily pro-Federer. The arena was filled with the red and white colors of the Swiss flag, with Federer supporters featuring Swiss flags on their shirts, hats, signs and faces. Looking ahead to a possible Federer victory, one fan held a sign reading, “The Big Two-Oh. Go Roger!”

Federer was quick off the mark, getting service breaks in the first and third games and forcing Cilic to go to his equipment bag for a new racket after just 12 points. Federer only conceded two points on his serve in the opening set, which lasted just 24 minutes.

But Cilic rallied in the second, getting his big forehand working and, after missing a set point on Federer’s serve in the 10th game, leveled the match in the tiebreaker. That was the first set Federer had dropped in the tournament.

Federer easily won the third set and was up a break in the fourth but the momentum swung again, with Cilic going on a roll to level the match. The sixth-seeded Cilic had two chances to break Federer’s serve in the first game of the fifth set, but wasted them both with two unforced errors. He then double-faulted twice in the second game to drop his own serve, giving Federer the decisive lead in the set.

Federer is now 9-1 against Cilic, including last year’s Wimbledon final. His only defeat was in the semifinals of the U.S. Open in 2014, where Cilic claimed his first major title.

After serving out at love, his celebration was delayed slightly by an unsuccessful challenge from Cilic on match point. It was a similar end to his five-set win over Nadal here last year. And, just like 12 months ago, the tears flowed.

“I’ve won three Slams now in 12 months. I can’t believe it myself,” said Federer, showing no signs he’s ready for his resurgent run to stop. “I just got to keep a good schedule, stay hungry, then maybe good things can happen. I don’t think age is an issue.”

## Woods all over Torrey Pines and scratches out a 70

**SAN DIEGO** (AP)—Tiger Woods’ first tee shot Saturday was so off the mark that a course marshal immediately started waving frantically to the left with his paddle.

That’s how it went for seven straight holes for Woods in the third round of the Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines.

Left rough. Left of the green on a par 3. Right rough. Right rough. Right rough again. Left rough. Greenside bunker on a par-3.

Woods, who started on No. 10 on the South Course, finally found the fairway with a 3-wood on his eighth hole, the par-4, 442-yard 17th.

Remarkably, despite so many erratic shots, Woods still managed a 2-under 70 in his first weekend round on the PGA Tour in 29 months. He was in the middle of the pack going into the final round.

The 42-year-old Woods de-

scribed his round as “gross,” although his short game and putting bailed him out for a decent score.

This is only his second PGA Tour event since he tied for 10th in the Wyndham Championship in August 2015. He had two back surgeries that fall, and fusion surgery on his lower back last April.

“I don’t know about coming together, but it was a struggle out there,” he said. “I didn’t hit it worth a darn all day. I was really struggling out there trying to find anything that was resemblance of a golf swing. But I was scoring, I was chipping, putting, I was grinding. I was trying to miss the ball on the correct sides because I know I didn’t have it, trying to give myself the correct angles and I did that most of the day. Then I had to rely on my touch, my feel, my putting and it’s been

good all week.”

If he didn’t have such a good short game, “It would have been snowing on me,” Woods said, using a euphemism for shooting in the 80s. “It would have been snowing.”

And if he’d have hit more fairways?

“It would be in the 60s. I don’t think I would be contending right now, but it would be in the 60s.”

Woods gave his back a good workout in the rough. However, other than an exaggerated contortion after chopping his second shot of the day out of the deep rough and into a trap, he didn’t show much frustration. Maybe that’s because he saved par on his first hole and then, after a bogey on 11, had two straight birdies.

Woods has hit only six fairways since Thursday. He said the problem isn’t with his

driver. “It’s just my swing. My feels are different. I’m struggling with my feels out there, hitting certain shots. Some of my go-to shots aren’t there. Some of my shots I like to hit under certain circumstances aren’t there, either. The only thing I have is my short game and my heart and that got me through today.”

Woods’ problems off the tee continued on his back nine.

On the par-3 third, which has a gorgeous view of the Pacific Ocean, Woods’ 7-iron bounced off the green and down the hill. He had a remarkable chip to 3 feet and saved par.

On the par-4 fourth, which parallels the ocean, his tee shot went left and a course marshal waved both of his orange paddles to the left.

Woods rallied and nearly holed a chip for birdie and tapped in for par.

closing the roof when the temperature reaches 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) and a measure called the wet-bulb globe temperature—which combines factors such as heat, humidity and breeze—reaches 32.5C (90.5F).

The temperature hit 38C (100F) an hour before the men’s final, when the WGBT reading was 32.7C (91F).

“With no dramatic reduction forecast, the referee exercised his discretion and called for the roof to be closed,” Tennis Australia said in a statement defending the decision.

“At no other time during the event this year has the WBGT reading reached the threshold.”

Federer took instant advantage of the air-conditioned venue, breaking Cilic’s serve in the first and third games.

“Mentally was tough. Also was difficult with conditions. Throughout the tournament I played all my matches outdoors, also preparing a hot day,” Cilic said. “Then first

# Surprises in store for KONQER Saipan

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Participants in this year's KONQER Saipan will be in for a treat and a lot of surprises when the second edition of the obstacle course race kicks off on April 28.

KONQER Sports chief executive officer Kaz Endo, in an exclusive email interview with *Saipan Tribune*, said they are keeping things a secret to build anticipation and surprise everyone come race day.

"It's official, April 28, 9am is KONQER Saipan. The location will be released in future press leaks. For now, we want to build the anticipation through a bit of mystery," Endo told *Saipan Tribune*.

"We want to disclose as much as possible, without ruining a good surprise. The event will feature an all-new course, location, and a revised sprint obstacle designs."

He added that they would



JON PEREZ

Participants in last year's KONQER Saipan take on one of the obstacle courses laid out at the Eloy S. Inos Peace Park in Puerto Rico. Organizers will be introducing new obstacles in the second edition of the race in April.

introduce new obstacles to replace their signature ones.

"We will be benching some

of our signature obstacles and introducing some new signature ones to wow our Bri-

gade. As always, its 'wellness through play' so that means everything will be challenging

but with fun in mind. Similar to our breakout event last year, we expect people of all shapes, sizes, and ages to participate," Endo said.

Saipan will have the honor of opening KONQER's three-nation tour, which would also make stops in Guam in June and in Palau in October.

"Saipan gets the honor of opening the games. We will debut our new obstacle designs on Saipan. After K6, we will march the Brigade to Guam on June 16 at the Leo Palace Resort then the grand finale will be held in Palau on Oct. 5 and 6," said Endo.



He added that those interested in participating in the raffle for the free 500 entries have until tomorrow to join.

"It's filling up fast and nicely. We are nearing 500, so apply now. And don't forget, if you don't win the free entry, all pre-registered entries will receive a special promo code for 50 percent off the price of \$100 per adult and \$40 per student. This is just for the individual entries, business teams will be offered a different [price] and will be contacted directly through our sales team," Endo said.

## CTSI

From Page 28

for five saves. Other members of the squad are Markus Toves, Devin Propst, Ramana Salas, and Sean and Becky.

Ye Jin made two goals for Ali'i, which also has Paul Lizama, Silvestre Ilo, Christopher Daikichy, Zoei and Zander Thomas Gray, Joshua Park, Narhya Mersai, Isaiah Jolo, and Isaiah Chargualaf as members. Ilo, Jolo, and Chargualaf manned the goal for Ali'i and totaled for nine saves.

Meanwhile, in the co-ed U15 division, Fake Madrid and Betde United defeated their respective opponents.

Fake Madrid pounded Marianas United, 22-1, for a rousing start in the tournament. Kaden Church and Paulynn Joyce scored five goals each and got a lot of help from their

teammates. Rintaro Miyawaki and Katrina Costales chipped in four goals apiece, Rinto Takahashi made two, and Oliver Fajardo and Blake Mister contributed one each. Max Church tallied the lone goal for Marianas United.

Betde United duplicated Fake Madrid's debut win after outclassing CNMI United, 6-3. Taka Borja and Brandon Tenorio posted two goals each, while Shairmaine Francisco had one for Betde United, which got an own goal in the second half. Merrick Toves drilled all three goals for CNMI United.

Beside the co-ed U12 and U15 games, three more matches in the U18 division were played in the opening day of the tournament and results of the triple-header will be reported in *Saipan Tribune*'s Wednesday issue.

in Palau in 2010, as they lost to the hosts and were again unsuccessful four years later in Pohnpei after bowing to Guam in the finals. After the defeat in Palau, Rogolifoi and the CNMI team went to New Caledonia for the 2011 Pacific Games and downed Guam in the finals, 8-4.

Meanwhile, players that saw action in the recently concluded SBL's Under 25 division are considered candidates for the selection, along with those who played for the CNMI team in the 2014 Micro Games in Pohnpei.

Rogolifoi is looking to make the selection a few months before the Micro Games in Yap kicks off. Yap will host the regional event from July 15 to 27. The SBL coordinator added they may suspend games in the league to give the CNMI national baseball team the chance to train and practice.

"We're going to stop the games in the SBL season for a while. It could be middle in the season or we may finish the season, depending on Mother Nature," Rogolifoi said.

## Red Sox manager Cora brings youthful eye to new job



**BOSTON**  
(AP)—Dave

Dombrowski wanted to make sure he and Alex Cora were on the same page, so the Red Sox boss sent off an email for his new manager's approval.

The response: A thumbs-up emoji.

Tony La Russa and Jim Leyland never did that.

"He's a good emoji texter," Dombrowski said with a laugh this month as the team turned its thoughts toward spring training. "He's very good with the thumbs-up. My children, they help me out at times."

A native of Puerto Rico, Cora is already a pioneer as

the first minority manager in the history of a franchise that was the last to field a black player. But he's also a new kind of Red Sox dugout boss: One of the youngest managers in franchise history, giving him a unique chance to connect with his players.

"He's not too far removed from actually playing the game. He's played -- actually, personally -- with some of my teammates now," Boston outfielder Jackie Bradley Jr. said. "I think it's going to be a great combination of old school and new school. He's learned from the past, and he's going to be able to put his own twist on things."

ics XVIII began to move the ball well and get easy baskets to cut the deficit to 10 twice, 23-33 (16:21 left), and 29-39 (9:06 left).

However, that was the closest that the 670 Sonics XVIII could get, as M&M Salas went on a backbreaking 12-0 scoring run to taste its biggest lead in the game, 51-29. Aiferson Atan anchored the rally, making 6 straight points with all of them coming off steals as for the nth time, the 670 Sonics XVIII struggled against M&M Salas' pesky defense.

Once M&M Salas' lead ballooned to 20-plus, it was all over but the final score, which took a while to be determined as the match was stopped on several occasions due to the malfunctioning scoreboard.

Despite the momentum-halting technical difficulties, M&M Salas went on to com-

plete its lopsided victory and used its bench to finish off the 670 Sonics XVIII.

Atan led M&M Salas' balance scoring in the finals with his 14 points, while N-Nes Siech added 9, and Kevin Kabiriel and Franco Bondoc chipped in 8 each. Four other M&M Salas players combined for 23 more points. Khristian Itaas top-scored for the 670 Sonics XVIII with his 10 markers, but 6 of them came when the game was already decided.

Meanwhile, Sun Palace outclassed Kanoa Resort, 74-70, to place third in the boys division.

Christian Morales had 39 markers to cap his strong offensive showing in the tournament and lead Sun Palace's close win. He tallied 4 of Sun Palace's last 6 points to hand his team the win. Dai Podziewski made the 2 other points.

John Farrell, who was fired last fall at the age of 55 despite leading Boston to the first back-to-back AL East titles in franchise history. Farrell's predecessor, Bobby Valentine, was 62 for his lone season in Boston; you'd have to go back to Kevin Kennedy, who was 41 when he was hired in 1995, to find a younger Red Sox skipper.

"I'm 42. I'm young," Cora said at the team's Christmas festival in December. "You'll see me around with my backpack and sneakers and jeans. I'm going to live my life. ... Nothing has changed. I went home and (it was) shorts, sandals and a T-shirt."

Anthony Deleon Guerrero registered 25 markers on a losing effort for Kanoa Resort.

### Finals

**M&M Salas Ol'Aces 64** — Atan 14, Siech 9, Kabiriel 8, Bondoc 8, Abejo 6, Blake 6, Santos 6, Sacdalanan 5, Manalo 1.

**670 Sonics XVIII 44** — Itaas 10, De Guzman 7, Tengco 6, Malasarte 6, Apasan 4, Kapileo 4, Cobacha 3, Alipio 2, Diaz 2.

**Scoring by halves:** 31-15, 64-44.

### Third Place

**Sun Palace 74** — Morales 39, Tenorio 13, Factor 8, Podziewski 5, Kim 5, Hinson 4.

**Kanoa Resort 70** — Deleon Guerrero 25, Yun 12, Ellama 11, Gamab 10, Kiser 6, Tenorio 6.

**Scoring by halves:** 32-39, 74-70.

# 3rd Aquathlon and 10K Pathway Run

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



Jinju Thompson emerges from the water after the one-kilometer swim during last Sunday's 3rd Aquathlon and 10K Pathway Run at the Kilili Beach Park.



Leon Etienne, left, and Josh David Joson sprint their way to the finish.



Chang Whan Jang prepares to remove his goggles as he transitions to the run leg of the race.



Claire Devey runs toward the beach after the swim leg of the race, organized by the Triathlon Association of the CNMI.



Rintaro Miyawaki raises his hands as he finishes the run portion of the race.



Ayano Braxton is about to cut the tape in the 10K run.



Kosuke Sato celebrates as he nears the finish line of the 10K run.



Edmund Bata slows down as he nears the finish line.



Thunder beat  
76ers for 8th  
straight victory

PAGE 24

# Saipan Tribune Sports

Weeping Federer  
gets record 20th  
major title

PAGE 25



28 TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2018

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Easy title win for M&M Salas

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**M**&M Salas Ol'Aces secured the boys division championship in the 2017 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament following a 64-44 victory over the 670 Sonics XVIII last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



The top-ranked M&M Salas lived up to its lofty billing, as it took control of the winner-take-all finale and withstood the 670 Sonics XVIII's fightback late in the first half en route to the 20-point winning margin. The

triumph allowed M&M Salas to keep its unbeaten record in the tournament, as it won all its nine matches in the eight-team field.

The highly favored team started the championship game with a 9-0 run, as its trapping defense held the 670 Sonics XVIII scoreless for nearly the

first five minutes of the game. With his squad down early, 670 Sonics XVIII coach Omar Ajoste pressed the panic button and replaced his starting five. The 670 Sonics XVIII's second unit then responded with 4 straight points off a pair

**See M&M on Page 26**

## CTSI Petmalu triumphs in opener

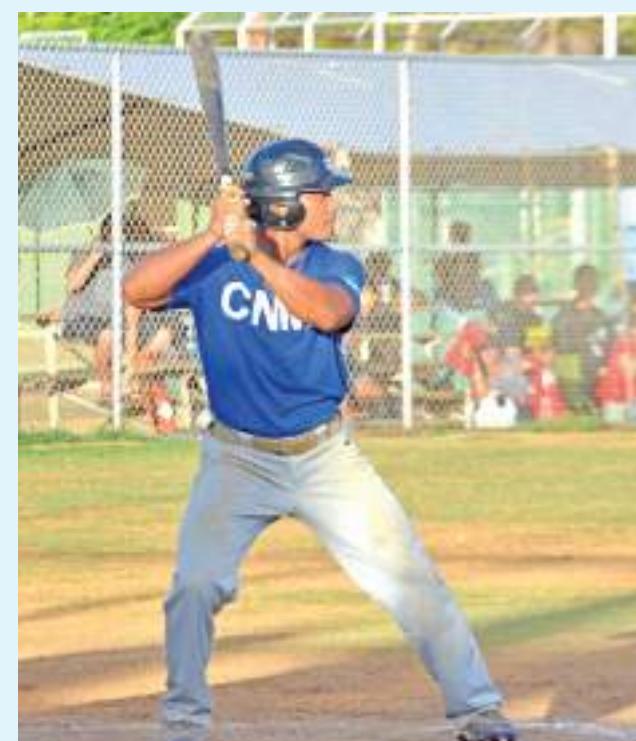


ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Wataru Kadokura, Anthony Austria, Mark Jose ad C.J. Roque, and Eros Estolas.

In the other co-ed U12 division match, Tinsel Toes topped Ali'i, 6-2.

Ruben Guerrero knocked in a pair of goals for Tinsel Toes, which drew one goal each from Leland Deleon Guerrero and Sophia Quintos. Jared Terlaje and Vicente Reyes are Tinsel Toes' goalies and combined

**See CTSI on Page 26**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
CTSI Petmalu's Audrey Castro, left, dribbles away from Betde's Kaitlyn Chavez during the first half of their co-ed U12 division game in the 2018 Youth Futsal Tournament last Sunday at the newly installed artificial turf at the TSL Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

CTSI Petmalu drew first blood in Saipan Soccer School's 2018 Youth Futsal Tournament after beating Betde, 3-1, in their co-ed U12 division game at the newly installed artificial turf at the TSL Sports Complex last Sunday.

Mark Chavez was Betde's goalie and had 10 saves. Completing Betde's roster are Mark's sister Kaitlyn, Riza Relucio, Mark Ryan Costales,

goal for Betde. Joining Pia, Audrey, and Cruzat on the winning squad are Wallace Sablan, Philip Megino, Nolan Ngewakl, John Santiago, Kristoffer Pascual, and Jose Camacho.

Santiago and Pascual played as goalies for CTSI Petmalu and recorded 13 and three saves, respectively.

Pia Ngewakl, Audrey Castro, and Carvin Cruzat scored for CTSI Petmalu, while Julie Anna Capayas made the lone



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
M&M Salas Ol'Aces' Kevin Kabiriel, left, takes off for a reverse layup against the 670 Sonics XVIII's Keeanu Diaz during the second half of their title game in the 2017 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

## Baseball team selection not dependent on stats alone

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Saipan Baseball League coordinator Tony Rogolifoi said that statistics alone in the upcoming season would

not guarantee a player spot on the soon-to-be-formed CNMI national baseball squad for the 2018 Micronesian Games.

The Saipan Baseball League is set to open its 2018 season next month and members of Commonwealth's 21-member baseball team will be chosen from the pool of players that will see action in the 10-squad competition.

Rogolifoi is expected to again manage the national team and he said that al-

ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Ben Jones Jr. waits for the pitch during the CNMI's game against Guam in the 2016 Micronesia Baseball Classic at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. The Commonwealth will form a baseball team anew to compete in the 2018 Micronesian Games in Yap this summer.

**See BASEBALL on  
Page 26**